No 1847.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 3rd, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 12 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Exchange account on salary draft.

One enclosure.

No 1847.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 3rd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, my account for gain by exchange on my salary draft as Chargé d'Affaires of this Legation from March 17th to March 31st inclusive.

847

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T.M.

Chas. Denby Jr.

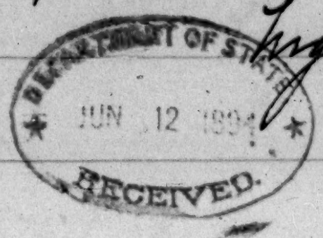
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Account as above.

Separate.

Legation of the United States.



Peking, May 7th, 1894.

—Wm. F. D. Cheshire—

to the

—Secretary of State.—

—Subject.—

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for loss by Exchange for the quarter ended March 31st, 1894.

———

Separate. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 7th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington. D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to Enclose duplicate statement of my account for loss by Exchange for the quarter ended March 31st, 1894.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your obedient servant.

J.D. Sheahire.

Interpreter of Legation

T. M.

Enclosure. Duplicate statement as above.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Swedish minister for his information —
Ack.
JUN 12 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 12 1894

No 1848.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 9th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the
Secretary of State.

To Swedish Min. dated June 13.

Subject

The Sungpu murders

Synopsis

Compliance of the provincial authorities with the demands of the foreign ministers for the reporting of the imperial edict and other points is encouraging.

No 1848.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 9th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In despatch No 1803,

of the 5th February, from this

Legation to the Department,

was enclosed a copy of the

last communication of the

foreign representatives to the

Tsungli Yamên with reference

to the Sungpu murders. In

this communication, the foreign

representatives demanded

that

that the Emperor's edict of June 13th 1891, enjoining the protection of missionaries, be posted anew in the provinces bordering on the Yangtze. In reply the Yamên stated that orders for the posting anew of the said decree had been issued by them to the Minister of Southern Trade.

It is gratifying to be able to state that these orders were actually issued and in such a manner as to secure obedience to them. I am informed that copies of the edict have been posted at Hankow, with an additional sentence saying that this is done

done by order of the Kungli Yamên. It is also appearing at other places along the Yangtze Valley where it is most needed. It is further reported that steps are being taken for the release from confinement and restoration to their homes of the natives who, though innocent of any crime, became the objects of official persecution because of their friendship for the murdered Swedes. The magistrate at Macheng also has been removed from office.

There, three points — the reposting of the Emperor's edict, the protection of innocent natives

and

and the removal of the
Macheng magistrate — were
all insisted upon by the
Foreign Representatives, and it
is encouraging to be able to
report an effective though tardy
compliance. No reflections have
ever been made by the Foreign
Representatives on the bona fides
of the ministers of the Yamên
in their protestations of regret
at anti-foreign outrages and
of willingness to atone therefor.
Pointed reflections have,
however, been made on the
attitude of the provincial
authorities and it is promising
for the future peace of the scenes
of last year's disturbances

that.

that the Yamên has at length induced the Viceroy at Hankow to accede to the demands of the Foreign Ministers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Consular Bureau will note
Ack. by Number and File.
JUN 12 1894

No 1849.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 10th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Mr. Jernigan's exequatur granted

№ 1849.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, May 10th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch № 862, of the 20th March, enclosing the commission of Thomas R. Jernigan as Consul General of the United States at Shanghai. Upon receipt thereof I asked for Mr. Jernigan's recognition by the Chinese Government, which was duly

granted

granted, and Mr. Finnigan's commission has been forwarded to him.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

No 1850.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. JUN 12 1894

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
JUN 12 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 10th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUN 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

The use of opium

Synopsis

Encloses a copy of a memorial of British missionaries to the Royal Opium Commission setting forth the injurious effect of opium in China.

One enclosure.

No 1850.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 10th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/
850

enclose, herewith, a copy of a memorial about to be presented to the Royal Commission on Opium by British missionaries who have been twenty five years or more in China. This memorial was elicited by the request of the Commission, now at work

in

in India, addressed to
foreign residents in China
to contribute their experience
as to the effects of the use
of opium.

The testimony on this
subject secured by the
Commission in India has been
of a most conflicting character.
It was found that the missionaries
on the one hand and the
foreign merchants and officials
on the other, divided on so
many questions, were arrayed
in hostile camps on this.) I
do not believe that this is
the case in China. The majority
of unprejudiced observers
condemn the use of opium.

in

in this country as an unmixed evil. As an indication of native sentiment on this subject, it is rumored that a censor is about to memorialize the throne requesting that opium smokers be debarred from competing at the government examinations.

I regard the statements in the enclosed memorial as unqualifiedly true.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Copy of memorial as above.

Enclosure in No 1850.

Clipped from North China Daily News May 1st 1894.

THE OPIUM TRATE.

Copy of Memorial about to be presented to the Royal Commission on Opium by British Missionaries in China of 25 or more years' standing.

We, the undersigned British missionaries representing different Societies labouring in nearly every province of China and having all of us had for many years abundant opportunities of observing the effects of opium-smoking upon the Chinese people, beg to lay before the Royal Commission on Opium the following statement of facts in reference to this question.

(1) We believe it to be a fact established beyond possibility of reasonable doubt that the consumption of opium in China is exerting a distinctly deteriorating effect upon the Chinese people, physically, socially, and morally. Statements to this effect have been repeatedly made in Blue Books and other official documents, on the authority of British officials of high standing, and they are entirely corroborated by our own personal observation. The Protestant missionary body in China has twice by its representatives assembled in Conference, and including men of various nationalities and of many different Churches, unanimously passed resolutions condemning emphatically the use of opium by the Chinese for other than medicinal purposes, and deploring the connexion of Great Britain with the opium trade. [See "The Records of the Missionary Conference held at Shanghai" 1877, and Ditto 1890.]

(2) It is a fact which cannot be reasonably disputed that the conscience of the Chinese people as a whole is distinctly opposed to the opium habit. It is continually classed in common conversation, and in books, with fornication and gambling. Sir Rutherford Alcock some time Her Majesty's Minister in China, when examined before a Committee of the House of Commons, spoke of "the universality of the belief among the Chinese that whenever a man takes to smoking opium, it will probably be the impoverishment and ruin of his family—a popular feeling which is universal both amongst those who are addicted to it, who always consider themselves as moral criminals, and amongst those who abstain from it." [See Report, East India Finance, 1871 (363) Page 275, 5,38.] We ourselves have never met with Chinamen who defended the practice as morally harmless, but we have heard it unsparingly condemned by the Chinese, times without number. The missions with which we are respectively associated, invariably refuse to admit opium-smokers to Church membership, but in so doing they are only acting in accordance with the general sentiment of the Chinese, Christian and non-Christian alike, which always stigmatises the habit of opium-smoking as vicious.

(3) It is a fact that the opium trade though now no longer contraband, is highly injurious not only to China, but also to the fair name of Great Britain. The past history and the present enormous extent of the opium trade with India, produce as we can testify from personal experience, suspicion and dislike in the minds of the Chinese people towards foreigners in general. On the other hand, the attitude of hostility towards opium which foreign missionaries are known to maintain, is approved and duly appreciated by the Chinese of all classes, as we have often found in our intercourse with the people.

(4) It is an indisputable fact that the opium imported from India is neither required for medicinal purposes in China nor generally used for these purposes, and hence we regard the importation as being wholly prejudicial to the well-being of the Chinese people.

In view of these facts the undersigned venture respectfully to express the earnest hope that the Royal Commissioners will embody in their Report a united recommendation to Her Majesty that the Indian Government should immediately restrict the Indian production of opium, to the supply of what is needed for medicinal purpose in India and elsewhere. With our long and sad experience of the injurious effects of opium consumption on the Chinese people, we cannot but feel the gravest apprehensions as to what the effects of the opium habit in other lands are likely to be. We are quite aware that some medical and other testimony has been given in India, designed to show that the consumption of opium by the peoples of India, is not accompanied with the same disastrous consequences that we have all witnessed for ourselves in China, but we are glad to know that strong testimony has also been given in India of a contrary kind, for we are of opinion that a longer and wider range of experience will certainly show that opium is as injurious *to all other races* as it has been proved to be to the Chinese. Opium is rightly classed in England amongst dangerous poisons, and it is so regarded in other countries, and we cannot believe that what is a dangerous poison to the greater part of the human race, acts only as a harmless stimulant on other parts of the race. We are convinced that if ever the day should come when opium is as widely consumed in India as it is now in China, the result will be as lamentable there as we know it to be here.

In submitting this memorial, which we believe expresses the opinion of nearly every Protestant missionary in China, without distinction of nation or church, and of the whole native Protestant Christian community, consisting now of several tens of thousands of persons, we beg to say that we are actuated by feelings of the deepest loyalty to Her Majesty the Empress of India and by the most profound desire for the truest welfare of her Indian dominions, not less than by the desire to see the curse of opium removed from China. We hold as beyond all shadow of doubt the conviction that thrones and dominions are established by righteousness, and that any source of revenue, however large, that is morally indefensible, tends only in the end to the weakening and the impoverishment of its resources.

Signed—

J. S. Burdon,
Bishop of Victoria, Hongkong, 1853.

G. E. Moule.
Bishop of the Church of England in Mid-China, 1858.

Wm. Muirhead,
Chairman, London Missionary Society, Shanghai, 1847.

J. Chalmers,
London Missionary Society, Hongkong, 1852

J. Hudson Taylor, M.R.C.S.
General Director, China Inland Mission, Shanghai, 1854.

Griffith John,
Chairman, London Missionary Society, Hankow, 1855.

J. Macgowan,
London Missionary Society, Amoy, 1860.

H. L. Mackenzie,
Presbyterian Church of England Mission, Swatow, 1860.

Arthur E. Moule,
Archdeacon at Shanghai, Church Missionary Society, 1861.

John R. Wolfe,
Archdeacon, Church Missionary Society, Foochow-foo, 1862.

DAVID HILL,
Wesleyan Missionary Society, Chairman of Wuchang District, 1865.

EVAN BRYANT,
London Missionary Society, Peking, 1866.

G. OWEN,
London Missionary Society, Peking, 1866.

J. W. STEVENSON,
China Inland Mission, Shanghai, 1866.

JAMES SADLER,
London Missionary Society, & Pastor of Union Church, Amoy, 1867.

[The dates following the above names are the dates of arrival in China.]

Dip

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. JUN 13 1894

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY. Ack by subject & file. JUN 13 1894

No 1851.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS

Legation of the United States

Peking, May 12th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE. JUN 13 1894 RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Ack'd June 14 "

Subject

Anti-missionary placards in Peking.

No 1851.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 12th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the American missionaries in the northern part of this city have recently been rather frequently annoyed and insulted by rowdies in their neighborhood. Such incidents they passed unnoticed until, some days ago, a boy was caught by some medical students

attached

attacked to their dispensary, in the act of porting on the wall in the street in which they live a written poetical composition making infamous charges against missionaries. The charges were the familiar ones that money was used to induce women to enter the church for immoral purposes. Such things cannot properly be allowed to pass unpunished, and, on being appealed to by the missionaries, I addressed the Yamên requesting an investigation of the matter by the police. The Yamên promptly acceded to this request and ordered the gendarmerie not only

only to arrest the guilty
parties in this case but also
"to take vigorous action to
"prohibit, in future, the people
"of the virinity of the missionaries
"from annoying them in any
"way."

Since this no further
complaint has been made.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 1852.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 17th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 26 1894
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 26 1894

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

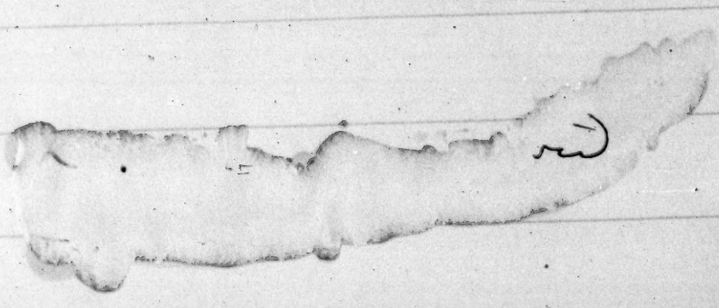
Rec'd June 27.

Subject

Mr. Ashmore's land at Swatow

Synopsis

Attempt made by a Chinese Guild at Swatow to obtain unlawful possession of the property of an American citizen. Authorities at Swatow and Canton refuse to interfere. Mr. Denby reports to Tsungli Yamên.



One enclosure.

No 1852.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 17th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

On the 5th ultimo, I received from Mr. William Ashmore and Mr. William Ashmore Jr., American citizens resident at Swatow, a letter stating that a determined effort was being made by a powerful mercantile guild to obtain unlawful possession of a piece of land belonging

to

to them at that city. This land, they stated, had been in the undisputed possession of Mr. Ashmore Sr. for more than twenty three years, and the guild had no shadow of claim to it but, encouraged by the opinion that Americans at Swatow were easy subjects of oppression, it had taken forcible possession of their property and hoped, by resort to bribery, to prevent official interference with such spoliation. The Messrs Ashmore announced their intention of prosecuting their suit, through the United States Consul at Canton, before the Viceroy, and, in the

the meantime, asked assurance from this Legation that our government was prepared to uphold them. I at once replied that this Legation would spare no efforts to maintain their rights, and at the same time, I wrote the United States Consul at Canton to support them. On the 11th instant, I received from the United States Consul at Canton a telegram stating that "shameful neglect "Ashmore case continues; robbers "control permitted", and that his despatches to the Treaty remained unanswered. The documents in the case not being then at hand, I was

unable

unable to lay the matter fully before the Yamen but, in a short despatch, I requested that telegraphic orders be sent to Suzatow to deal justly in this matter.

On the 14th instant, the papers in the case came to hand and I forwarded to the Yamen a detailed statement thereof, with a demand that immediate rectification be made for the highhanded and untawful action of the guild. My despatch to the Yamen set forth the details of this case substantially as I now report it to you.

1/1852

By a deed dated January 14th 1872, Rev. William Ashmore became

became possessor of a piece
of land adjoining the sea
at Swatow. This piece of
land was deeded to Mr.
Ashmore by the officials at
Swatow in exchange for
another piece of ground which
he owned near the old Swatow
fort and which the authorities
desired to regain. Along the
western boundary of this
piece of land, Mr. Ashmore
erected a stone wall which,
though covered up with silt,
still remains. At the time
this deed was made, the land
conveyed by it was of little
value. In the year 1885, the
viceroy of the two Kwangs

authorized

authorized the construction
of a bund by the owners
adjoining the sea; to facilitate
the loading and unloading
of cargo. Mr. Ashmore's land
was part of that affected by
this permission, and he and
the other owners spent many
thousands of dollars in filling
and improving. By these
improvements and by increase
of trade this land has now
become of great value, the
Ashmore property being
estimated as worth from one
hundred to four hundred
thousand dollars. The Chinese
authorities entered into an
explicit agreement that those
who

who filled in their land
should become undisputed
owners thereof, having only
to pay the customary land tax.

Mr. Ashmore has been in
possession of the land mentioned
in the original deed since 1872,
or more than twenty three years,
and of the filled in piece of
land since 1885, or nearly ten
years. During all this time he
has regularly paid taxes thereon
and collected, without dispute,
the rents from the tenants
thereof.

At the time that Mr. Ashmore
received the deed for his land
— in 1872 — the adjoining property
belonged to a certain Li Shun Ho.

Some

Some three months after the
date of Mr. Ashmore's deed,
the Wan Nien Teng Guild
petitioned that it might acquire,
and did acquire, some land
adjoining Mr. Ashmore's, being
the land of the above named
Li Shun Foo. The boundary
was the stone wall above
referred to and which still
remains in position. During
the many years which followed
the guild's acquisition of this
piece of ground, no dispute
occurred between it and Mr
Ashmore as to this boundary.
It was only about eighteen
months ago that the guild
began to dispute his possession.

Knowing

knowing, however, that they had no evidence or proofs against his ownership, they proceeded as follows:

1º They sent agents through streets on Ashmore's land forbidding his tenants to pay any rent in future without the permission of the guild. The names of these persons are on record in the office of the Acting United States Consul. This procedure was brought to the notice of the Taotai but no answer was received from him.

2º Some guild men invaded Mr. Ashmore's property, driving off the smaller tenants and

claiming

claiming that the ground was theirs. His workmen, on ground that had been in his possession for twenty three years, were beaten and driven off with violence.

3: Finally, encouraged by the fact that no protection was afforded by the officials, they, during the present year, placed stones in the heart of Mr. Ashmore's property claiming ownership thereof.

The remonstrances of the Acting United States Consul at Swatow against this outrage have been unavailing, and the Consul at Canton has received no reply to his

despatches

despatches.

In my despatch to the Yamên, I have asked: 1° the immediate removal of the boundary stones wrongfully placed on Mr. Ashmore's property; 2° the cessation of all interference with his enjoyment thereof and collection of rents therefrom, and the prevention of all annoyance to his tenants and workmen; 3° compensation to Mr. Ashmore for all losses he has suffered by reason of the guild's unlawful conduct.

A careful examination of the deeds and other documents, both Chinese and foreign, which are very voluminous, has convinced

me

me of the perfect justice of
Mr. Ashmore's title to the
land in dispute. The action
of the guild can only be
characterized as high-handed
robbery supported or acquiesced
in by corrupt officials. This view
is also held by Mr. Seymour,
United States Consul at Canton,
who is personally familiar with
the land in question and
with the details of this case.
I regard it as of the utmost
importance that Mr. Ashmore's
rights be protected and that
it be made evident that imposition
on an American citizen will
not be tolerated at any port
in China. Mr. Seymour intimates

that

that this attempt to ill-use an American citizen at Swatow is animated by a spirit of reprisals for alleged ill-usage of Chinese in the United States. I have not referred to this in writing to the Yamên, but, should it be the case, it is all the more important that it should be promptly checked.

The Yamên has not yet replied to my despatch. It is to be hoped that the Chinese Government will act with energy and justice. Without, however, waiting for their reply, I have considered it advisable to communicate the facts of

the

the case to you.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires

ad interim

Enclosure:

Mr. Denby Jr. to the Tsungli

Yamen No 17, May 17th 1894.

Enclosure in No 1852.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the Tsungli Yamen.

No 17. May 17th 1894.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

On the 14th instant, I addressed you with reference to an attempt on the part of a guild at Swatow to obtain unlawful possession of a piece of land belonging to an American citizen. I have now received from the American consul at Canton a despatch setting forth all the details of this case, which are as follows.

By a deed dated Jan 11th 1872 — Tung Chih 9th year, 12th moon. 5th day — Rev. William Ashmore, an American citizen, became possessor of a piece of land adjoining the sea at Swatow. This piece of land was deeded

to

to Mr. Ashmore by the officials at Swatow in exchange for another piece of ground which he had bought near the old Swatow Fort and which the authorities were desirous to regain. Along one boundary of this piece of ground Mr. Ashmore erected a stone wall which though covered up with silt still remains. At the time this deed was made the land conveyed in it was of little value. In the year 1885 — 11th Kuang Hsü — the viceroy of the two Kuangs authorized the construction of a bund by the owners of the land adjoining the sea, to facilitate the loading and unloading of cargo. Part of the land affected by this permission was the piece belonging to Mr. Ashmore, and he and the other owners spent many thousands

of

of dollars in filling and improving. By reason of these improvements the land has now become of great value. The Chinese authorities undertook that those who thus filled in their land should become undisputed owners thereof forever, having only to pay the customary land tax.

Mr. Ashmore has been in possession of the land mentioned in the original deed since 1872, or more than 23 years, and of the filled in piece of land since 1885, or nearly 10 years. During all this time he has regularly paid taxes thereon and collected without dispute the rents from the tenants thereof. No one ever questioned his possession.

At the time that Mr. Ashmore received the deed for his land - in 1872 - the land adjoining belonged to a certain Li Shun Ho.

Some

Some three months after the date of Mr. Ashmore's deed the Wan Nien Teng Guild petitioned that it might acquire, and did acquire, some land adjoining Mr. Ashmore's boundary being the land belonging to the above named Li Shun Ho. This boundary was the stone wall above refered to and which still remains in position. During the many years which followed the guild's acquisition of this piece of ground, no dispute occured between it and Mr Ashmore as to this boundary. It was only about 18 months ago that the guild began to dispute his possession. Knowing, however, that there was no evidence nor proof against his proprietorship, they proceeded as follows:

1: They sent agents through streets on Ashmore's land.

forbidding

forbidding his tenants to pay any rent in future without the permission of the guild. The names of these agents are on record in the office of the Acting United States Consul. This procedure was brought to the notice of the Taotai but no answer was received from him.

2° Some guild men invaded Mr. Arkmore's property driving off the smaller tenants and claiming that the ground was theirs. His workmen, on ground which had been in his possession 23 years, were beaten and driven off with violence.

3° Finally, encouraged by the fact that no protection was afforded by the officials, they, during the present year, placed stones in the heart of Mr. Arkmore's property claiming ownership thereof.

The remonstrances of the

Acting

Acting Consul at Swatow to this outrage have been unheeded and the despatches of the United States Consul at Canton have been likewise unavailing. It becomes, therefore, my duty to call upon Your Highness and Your Excellencies to order 1° the immediate removal of the boundary stones wrongfully placed on Mr. Ashmore's property; 2° the cessation of all interference with Mr. Ashmore's enjoyment of his property and collection of rents therefrom and of all annoyance to him, his workmen and tenants; 3° the repayment to Mr. Ashmore of all losses he has suffered by reason of the guilds unlawful conduct.

I have to add that the statements in this despatch are based on documents in the possession of this Legation. It is unnecessary to point out

that

that the action of the guied
is entirely contrary to law
and the action of the officials
is a violation of treaty. Mr.
Ashmore's title to the land
is indisputable and the guied
has no shadow of right thereto.
Their action is a high handed
robbery which I am sure the
Government of China will
not permit. I request Your
Highness and Your Excellencies
to telegraph at once to Swatow
directing that justice be done
in this case before greater
losses have been inflicted on
an American citizen.

I have etc.

(Sig'd) Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires
ad interim

7

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUN 26 1894

No 1853.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 19th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUN 25 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Statistics as to tides

Synopsis

Mr. Denby awaits the report of the Inspector General of Customs before making to the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey the report required by Department's circular of March 21st last.

№1853.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 19th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular, of the 21st March last, asking information as to tides. I applied, on the 30th ultimo, to the Inspector General of Customs for the desired statistics and was informed that they would be supplied as soon as possible but

but that it would be
necessary to write to the
customs authorities at the
sea ports therefor.

I will report to the
Superintendent of the Coast
and Geodetic Survey, in reply
to your circular, as soon as
the Inspector Generals' report
comes to hand.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d' Affaires
ad interim

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 26 1894

No 1854.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 19th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUN 28 1894
RECEIVED

To J. P. Lacy by June 27.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Smithsonian Institution's communication to Mr. Chang Yin-hoon.

Synopsis

The box containing above has been delivered by Mr. Denby to Minister Chang.

№ 1854.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 19th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch № 872, of the 30th March, and of the box therein refered to, which Mr. S. P. Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, asked to have delivered to Mr. Chang Yen-hoon, late Chinese Minister to Washington.

I

I have the honor to state that the said box was delivered by me to Mr. Chang on the 15th. instant.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires

ad interim

Ap
Arab to Italy

No 1855.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
JUL 18 1894
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 18 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 19th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUL 18 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Italian minister has audience.

№1855.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 19th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Bardi, who recently arrived at Peking as Minister of Italy, was received today in audience by the Emperor, at the Cheng Kuang Tien hall.

This audience is only noteworthy in that it strengthens the position of the Chinese

Chinese Government in refusing
to receive foreign representatives
within the palace proper. The
newly arrived ministers of
England, Belgium, Germany
and Italy have all accepted
audience in the Cheng Kuang
Tien, leaving only the ministers
of Russia, France and Spain
who refuse to present their
letters of credence unless received
within the precincts of the palace
itself. The Ministers of Russia
and Spain are about leaving
Peking and it is questionable
whether their successors will
maintain their attitude.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad int

Dup
Inclosure subject file

No. 1856.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack'd file
JUL 18 1894

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.
JUL 18 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 23rd, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUL 18 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Ack'd July 19 '94 m

Subject

Nanking missionaries Lee residence.

Synopsis

The Yamên agrees with the Viceroy at Nanking that danger would exist in granting this privilege.

One enclosure.

No 1856.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 23rd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Refering to my despatch No 1839, of the 23rd ultimo, regarding the refusal of the authorities at Nanking to permit the American missionaries to reside during the summer at the hills, I have the honor to enclose a translation of the Yamên's reply to my despatch.

1/856

It will be seen that

the

the Viceroy at Nanking reasserts the danger to missionaries of residence without the city; and on this ground alone bases his refusal.

I do not believe, nor do the missionaries themselves, that any such danger exists, and I will again address the Yamên urging that they be authorized to make a trial of hill residence to show that their fears are without foundation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires

ad interim.

Enclosure:

No. Kungli Yamên to Mr. Denby Jr.

Enclosure in No. 1856.

(Translated by Chas. Denby Jr.)

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby Jr.

Note. May 21st 1894.

Sir:

Upon the receipt of your note with reference to the desire of the missionaries at Nanking to resort, during the heated season, to Hsi Hsia Shan,* this Yamên forwarded a copy of the list of names enclosed by you to the Southern Superintendent of Trade that he, being informed thereof, might take proper action in the matter. Now we have received a reply from him as follows:

"As China has authorized
"the building of churches
"and the propagation of
"Christianity in the interior,
"there would seem to be
"no reason in prohibiting
"to missionaries the simple

privilege

* Hills near Nanking.

"privilege of resorting to
"certain places to escape
"the heat. The real reason
"therefor is to be found
"in the fact that the
"conditions are not the
"same within and without
"the capital. The mountain
"to which the missionaries
"wish to resort is desolate
"and retired and few people
"live there. Since the
"building of churches at
"Nanking to the present
"time, missionaries have
"never repaired to the
"mountains during the
"summer and there is no
"provision in the treaties
"authorizing them to do so.
"Throughout the Yangtze
"valley the popular mind
"is in an unsettled
"condition. Between the
"populace and the missionaries

exists

"exists a great antipathy.
"Even within the cities
"where churches are
"protected by the magistrates,
"the suspicions of the
"people sometimes lead to
"trouble. If at some remote
"locality in the hills, the
"local officials would
"with difficulty learn of
"such troubles and would
"more than ever be unable
"to afford protection.

"In the 9th year of
"Kuang Hsü (1883), the
"consuls and merchants
"at Chinkiang wished
"to build summer residences
"at the Ku Shou mountains.
"The literati and the
"people were opposed, however,
"and it was difficult
"to accord permission. Hence
"the project came to an
"end.

Now

"Now it is to be remarked
"that the missionaries in
"this case live in a locality
"in the northern party
"Nanking which is half
"city half suburb. It is
"quiet and pleasant to
"live in, not crowded and
"confused, and free from
"turmoil. Why should
"they, under there circumstance,
"search for other summer
"residences in the hills
"causing endless trouble?"

This Yamen begs to observe that the argument of the Southern Superintendent of Trade is reasonable and his statements are true. It is, therefore, our duty to request you to direct the said missionaries to abandon their project and thus avoid giving rise to trouble.

We have etc. etc.

Archive file

No. 1857.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ans. & file
JUL 18 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 18 1894

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUL 18 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 23rd, 1894.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Mr. Kui Kuo-yin's recent
literary examination.

One enclosure.

No 1857.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 23rd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a clipping from the North China Daily News, of the 17th instant, describing a new departure in the Chinese system of competitive examinations for certain high officials. This clipping may interest the Department as recounting the misfortune

1/1857

misfortune in which Mr. Tsui Kuo-yin, former minister to the United States, has been involved by the Emperor's personal examination of his essay. Mr. Tsui has long been regarded as one of the foremost scholars of the empire and it is not easy to understand the Emperor's lack of appreciation of his paper.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires
ad interim.

Enclosure:
Clipping as above.

Enclosure in No 1857.

Clipping from North China Daily News.
May 17th 1894.

THE EMPEROR AS AN EXAMINER.

Our native correspondent at Peking sends the following story. The competitors at the recent forced examinations of members of the Hanlin Academy and Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent have been greatly astonished at the idea which suddenly occurred to the Emperor to examine personally the theses sent in and settle himself the relative excellence of the compositions. The Hanlin Academy, of course, is well-known as the college of literature *par excellence*, but the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent is, perhaps, not so well known. The members of this department or court are naturally men of high literary attainments, but during the reigns of the last three Emperors, Hsien Fêng, T'ung Chih who had no sons or heirs apparent, and the present Kuang Hsü who has none as yet, it stands to reason that an appointment to this court is nothing but a sinecure, and during these reigns has been considered simply as an acknowledgement of literary merit with no actual duties to attend to. In previous years, when such examinations as the one under review happened, the Emperor of the time was either frivolous or occupied with Court amusements, which gave him neither taste nor time to attend personally to the former, thus leaving too much power in the hands of the Ministers who naturally gave the palm of excellence to their favourites or relations. At the recent examinations many of the competitors, aware of the spirit of favouritism and nepotism which permeates high quarters, made no attempt to brush up their memories and "go to school again." Hence their great surprise, as well as the utter astonishment of the examining board of high Ministers of State who had examined the theses of the competitors and marked out the standing of each man according to their own peculiar bias, when the Emperor signified his intention to look over each essay and poem himself and "place" the essayists according to their excellence. There were 208 competitors and it took the Emperor three whole days to look over the essays. The task was long, but it was accomplished with care and attention to details. The list of the examining Board was turned almost upside down, for the Emperor marked out six men as entitled to first honours (three of these stood amongst the last in the first list); seventy-seven to second-class honours; one hundred and twenty-three to third; and two men to the fourth or last class. Amongst the competitors was Ts'ui Kuo-yin, the lately returned Minister to the United States, Spain and Peru. He had a brevet button of the second rank, and owing to his post of Senior Deputy Supervisor of Instruction to the Heir Apparent (fifth rank, Class A) he had, of course, to present himself at the examination hall as a competitor, notwithstanding his years and previous services abroad. In the list of the examining board, Ts'ui Kuo-yin stood amongst the first thirty, and was recommended to a higher post and honour. In the Emperor's, he stood amongst the fifties in the third class, and in the decree classifying the essayists—in which the Emperor made it a point to state clearly that he had done so after personally looking over every paper—Ts'ui Kuo-yin was ordered to "take off his brevet second rank button," being degraded from the post of Deputy Supervisor to that of Junior Secretary of the Supervisorate. Those who belonged to the first and second classes were promoted two steps, while the others were either degraded proportionately or deprived of from one to half-a-year's salary.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL18 1894

No 1858.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 26th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 18 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject ✓ original enclosure to Tientsin to July 19.

Taxes on shipping

Synopsis

Reply to Department's despatch No 874 of the 6th ultimo on this subject.

One enclosure.

No 1858.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, May 26th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As directed in your despatch No 874, of the 6th ultimo, I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a report, on taxes, dues, etc. levied on shipping in this country, addressed to the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

1/858

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires

ad interim.

Enclosure:

Report as above.

Desp to Secretary
Derby 19 " 94 710
Asst. Secy 19.94

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ark sfle
JUL 18 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 18 1894

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

1859.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 2nd, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUL 18 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the
Secretary of State.

Subject.

The bubonic fever in South China.

Synopsis.

Description of the symptoms and progress thereof. Action of the Diplomatic Corps with reference thereto.

No 1859.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 2nd, 1894.

To the Honorable ——

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The remarkable plague, known as the "bubonic pest" or "bubonic fever", which is now prevailing in Canton and Hongkong, has caused great uneasiness in the various ports of China. Much apprehension as to its further spread is manifested and every precaution has been taken

to

to prevent its introduction into districts not as yet infected. Great difficulty arises, however, from the utter inability of the Chinese to understand and unwillingness to comply with the most elementary principles of sanitation.

Like all other pestilences that have ravaged the world, this seems to be of oriental origin. It has been known in India since 1815 and in Yunnan since 1871. It is supposed to be identical with the Roman plague of the sixth century and with the "Black Death" of the fourteenth,

which

which are also supposed to have originated in China. The present outbreak is directly traceable to Yunnan. From there it went to Canton and thence to Hongkong, whence, it is to be hoped, the action of the colonial government will prevent its further spread.

In Hongkong the new cases have numbered between forty or fifty and fifteen or twenty per day, with about 70% of deaths. At Canton it was estimated that 5.000 deaths had occurred up to the 8th ultimo. At that city a novel and thoroughly Chinese method of checking the disease was

Lit

hit upon. A fortune teller having given out that the plague would die away with the approach of the spring solstice, the people of Canton, in order to deceive the gods of sickness, made the 1st day of the 4th moon (May 5th) their New Year's Day. Every ceremony by which the day is celebrated was gone through with scrupulous exactitude. The local authorities assisted in this farcical performance. The New Year's festivities in the presence of such widespread death had a somewhat ghastly character.

The symptoms of this disease

as

as detailed in the Shanghai papers are as follows. The disease appears in the shape of a chill followed by a sudden fever rising to 105° or over. There is much headache or cerebral disturbance accompanied by stupor. A glandular swelling occurs in the neck, under the arm or in the groin rapidly enlarging to the size of a fowl's egg. With or without a decline of the fever, the patient sinks deeper into a condition of coma and usually dies in forty eight hours; sometimes, however, only six hours elapse between taking the fever and death.

It is said to be due to poverty and filth and its development has been promoted by a long continued drought. Foreigners are not attacked by it.

The Commissioner of Customs at Mengtzu in Yunnan gives, in the Customs Decennial Reports, the following account of this plague.

"The curse of the province is
"the Yunnan pest, or bubonic
"fever, called by the natives
"the Yang-tzu disease; and
"it is a marvel that the
"population survives, if the
"stories told of its ravages
"be true × × × ×. Summer

is

"is the carnaval season
"of the epidemic, but its
"ravages are not confined
"to this period - On its
"approach, the first victims
"are rats, which, fearless
"of human beings, rush
"madly into their presence
"and, after capering around
"the room, fall dead on the
"spot - The next to suffer
"are domestic animals.
"With human beings the
"symptoms are high fever,
"accompanied by excessive
"thirst and violent
"deliriousness, ending
"usually in a loss of
"consciousness. In a few

Lower

"bours an enlargement of a
"gland takes place, in the
"form of a small hard lump
"and the patient generally
"dies at the end of the second
"day or early on the third.
"In the summer of 1891 a
"number died at Mengtzu
"of a fever with like symptoms
"except that there was no
"bubo visible; and the
"Chinese say it is sometimes
"suppressed. × × × The erratic
"course of the epidemic, both
"in its journey through the
"country at large and in its
"visitation from house to house,
"is very strange. Whole
"neighborhoods will be passed
by

"by, to be visited later on
"or to escape altogether.
"x x x x In a period of three
"months (1891) the total
"mortality in the city was
"estimated as largely over
"1000 — a large percentage
"in a population which
"cannot exceed 15000".

Some alarm as to
the further spread of the
disease is felt in Russia.
The Siberian authorities have
telegraphed the Russian Minister
here for information as to
its progress. At his request
the diplomatic body, at a
meeting held on the 25th instant,
authorized him — as dean — to
ask

ask the Chinese Government to take some action to prevent its introduction into ports as yet uninfected. The Yamên, under date of the 28th ultimo, replied briefly that the Governor General of Canton had been instructed to take the proper measures.

The latest reports from the south of China indicate, happily, a decided abatement of the plague.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires

ad interim.

April 1
June 4.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUN 4 1894

Secretary of State.
JUN 2 1894

From Peking

June 2, 1894.

Received 4: 20 P. M.

Gresham

Washington

D.C.

Foreign Office assures the Treaty will be approved without alteration if ratified in the Senate.

Denby.

Ack by subject
July 19 1894

No. 1860.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 2nd, 1894.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
The treaty with China

Synopsis
Confirms telegram stating that Chinese Government will approve treaty without alteration if ratified by the Senate.

No 1860.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 2nd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 876, of the 14th April, enclosing a copy of the treaty with China signed on the 17th March.

While not visiting the Yamên for that purpose, I availed of my first meeting with the ministers to communicate to them

them your remark that it would be unfortunate if China should insist upon modifications in the treaty as this might cause it to have less friends in the Senate. They most emphatically assured me that they had no intention of suggesting any changes whatever and that, if approved by the Senate, the treaty would be at once ratified by China.

I accordingly telegraphed you this date as follows:

"Foreign Office assures the
"treaty will be approved
"without alteration if
"ratified in the Senate"

The text of this treaty, not

differing

differing materially from the copy enclosed in your despatch, appeared some time ago in the Shanghai papers. It has excited very little comment from the foreigners in China. On the part of the American residents no opposition has been manifested to it. Several of the foreign ministers accredited to Peking have, however, adversely criticised the provision for the registration of American laborers.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires
ad interim

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Acksfile
JUL 18 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JULY 18 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 1861.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 8th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 18 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Acknd July 9th

Subject

Seizure of missionary property in Hainan

Synopsis

The authorities at Kiungchow in Hainan take forcible possession of a piece of land belonging to the American Presbyterian Mission.

One enclosure.

No. 1861.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 8th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have been advised by the United States consul at Canton, under date of the 21st ultimo, that the long standing trouble between the missionaries and the local authorities at Kiungchow, in the Island of Hainan, over a piece of property, has culminated in the seizure of the land in

dispute

dispute by the authorities and the forcible ejectment of the missionaries therefrom.

The gravity of this case has been, the consul assures me, greatly exaggerated and the difficulties of it have been largely due to the indiscreet conduct of the members of the mission, one of whom he describes as "a hornet tormenting every one "into contention and excitement." He hopes to arrive by patience at a satisfactory arrangement of the dispute, and to this end has asked me to bring the matter to the attention of the Yamên.

The circumstances of this case

are

are as follows.

Eight or nine years ago Mr. Jeremiassen, a Danish subject, belonging to the American Presbyterian Mission, brought about the purchase of a piece of land at Kiungchow by a native Christian. This land was then conveyed by the native Christian to Mr. Jeremiassen and by him to the American Presbyterian Mission. The deeds were recorded in the United States Consulate at Canton. In September 1886, this last deed and all antecedent deeds were sent by the consul to the Taotai for authentication, in accordance with Chinese custom.

There

There deeds have never been
authenticated nor returned
and they remain to this day
in the possession of the authorities.
To demands for their restoration,
the authorities reply that the
seller had no right to sell
without the consent of others;
that the Chinese buyer was a
fictitious personage (the mission
dares not produce him for
fear of persecution), and that
the ground is unsuitable for
missionary purposes as it
adjoins a spot where the
Chinese have, or will soon have,
a powder magazine. They offer
to return the eight hundred
dollars of purchase money to
the

the mission. In the meantime, the property has remained in the possession of the missionaries, who have used a small building on it as a dispensary.

The consul has been trying to induce the authorities to assist in procuring another site, and, in April last, the viceroy at Canton offered to instruct the local officials to consult with the missionaries on this question. But, as a preliminary to these negotiations, he insisted that the missionaries should receive the purchase money back, thus giving up all claim to the land which has been

been, until its recent seizure,
in their possession. This the
missionaries refuse and demand,
on their part, the issuing of
a proclamation informing the
people that no one will be
punished for selling land
to foreigners or Christians, which,
they say, would remove all
difficulty as to securing another
site. To this the viceroy does
not consent.

In this deadlock matters
remained until very recently.
A few weeks ago the missionaries,
impatient of delay, prepared
building materials for the
construction of houses on the
disputed ground. They appealed

to

to the consul at Canton for protection in this operation. To his representations to the viceroy on the subject he received a reply that no harm should come to anyone but that no building on the land would be permitted. Affair came to a crisis on the 13th ultimo.

On the evening of that day some officers of the district magistrate's Yamen, accompanied by three literati and some employees, removed the contents of the building on the ground in dispute, affixed another lock to it, closed it and locked it and thus practically effected

effected the mission from the premises.

The lack of judgement displayed by the missionaries in attempting to build in the face of decided official opposition constitutes no justification for such arbitrary proceedings. The consul at Canton took up the case and, after consultation with the more experienced missionaries of that locality, decided to recommend the missionaries not to attempt to erect buildings at present and, in the meantime, to urge the viceroy to cooperate in the selection of another site and to issue a proclamation assuring

immunity

immunity from persecution
of Chinese who may propose
to sell land to foreigners.
He also requests this legation
to bring before the Yamên
1° the unjustifiable proceedings
of the officials in retaining
possession of the deeds; 2° the
recent arbitrary ejectment of
the mission from its property;
3° compliance with the missionaries'
reasonable request for a
proclamation.

I have complied with this
request and have, this date,
forwarded to the Yamên a despatch
of which I enclose a copy.

1/1861

It remains to be said that
the missionaries in Hainan

do

do not seem to have considered
the action of the consul in their
behalf as sufficient. They called
to their Board in New York to
notify the United States
Government of the seizure of
their property. Mr. Jeremiassen
also availed of his Danish
citizenship to wire the Russian
minister, who represents
Denmark here, that his life was
in danger. The minister sent
his interpreter to the Yamên
to demand Mr. Jeremiassen's
protection, and the Yamên
telegraphed the viceroy at Canton
giving orders to that effect. In
a note of the 1st instant, communicated
to me by the Russian Minister,

the

the Yamen reported that they had received telegraphic assurances from the Tainan officials that there was absolutely no danger, that the populace was favorably disposed to the missionaries, and that the sole dispute was an unsettled law suit with reference to a piece of land. They accused Mr. Jeremiassen of wilfully stiring up trouble and requested that he be ordered to peacefully pursue his missionary calling.

The difficulties of acquiring land in Tainan have not been experienced by Americans alone. The British Government has for many

many years been trying to
secure a suitable site for a
consulate and the foreign
customs were long unable to
buy property at Kiungchow.
The viceroy at Canton and the
government at Peking do not
always exercise supreme
control in the island. I hope,
however, that patience and
reasonable conduct may
ultimately obtain for our
missionaries another suitable
site in lieu of the one which
they have been deprived.

I have the honor to be, Sir.
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires
ad

ad interim.

Enclosure:

Mr. Denby Jr. to the Tsungli Yamen No

Enclosure in No. 1861.

Mr. Denby F. to the Tsungli Yamen

June 8th 1894.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the
honor to bring to your notice
the unlawful conduct of
certain officials in the island
of Hainan with reference to a
piece of land belonging to the
American Presbyterian Mission.

The circumstances of this case
are as follows.

In the year 1886, Mr. Jeremiassen,
a Danish subject, bought a piece
of land in the city of Kiungchow
in Hainan and then sold it
to the American Presbyterian
Mission. This sale was recorded
in the United States Consulate
at Canton. The deeds making
this transfer and six antecedent
deeds were sent in September

1886

1886, to the Taotai at Kiungchow for examination and authentication. These deeds have remained in the hands of the Chinese authorities, who have persistently refused all demands for their delivery. In the meantime, the American missionaries have remained in possession of the property and have used a small house situated thereon as a dispensary. Objections existed on the part of the officials to the possession by the missionaries of this particular piece of land, and the missionaries, on their part, were willing to receive another in place of it if some suitable site were offered them. Though often appealed to by the consul, the Viceroy at Canton and the Hainan officials took no steps for making such an exchange.

Some weeks ago, the missionaries, wearied by this delay,

resolved

resolved to build upon the land in their possession and prepared materials for the purpose. To this proceeding strenuous opposition was manifested by the authorities.

On the 13th of last month, some offices of the District Magistrate's yamên, accompanied by three literati and some employees proceeded in the evening to the disputed land. The house situated thereon was guarded by a watchman. This man they drove away and, removing the contents of the house, they placed another lock upon it, locked it and thus turned the mission out of its own property.

I have to remark to Your Highness and Your Excellencies that such a proceeding is entirely unlawful and inadmissible. The missionaries were willing and are now willing to take another piece of property in exchange for

the

the site to which the officials objected. Until such a change had been effected the property in dispute remained the property of the mercionaries and the Taotai had no authority to enter upon it.

The conduct of the officials throughout this affair is of a most remarkable character. During eight years they have arbitrarily retained possession of deeds sent them by an official of the United States for official purposes and now they forcibly take possession of property belonging to American citizens. I ask Your Highness and Your Excellencies if such flagrant disregard of the rights of foreigners is to be permitted on the part of officials under your control?

The manner of acquisition of land by Americans in China is set forth in Article XVII of

the

the treaty with the United States executed in 1844. If the officials in Hainan will comply therewith this affair can be speedily arranged.

The United States consul at Canton has asked the viceroy to issue a proclamation stating that, under the treaties, foreigners are entitled to buy land for missionary purposes and that no native selling or leasing to them will incur punishment or persecution therefor. This is a reasonable request and it is to be hoped that Your Excellencies and Your Excellencies will direct the viceroy to comply with it. There is no reason why further delay should occur in the settlement of this difficulty in Hainan and I respectfully request that proper measures be taken to have it dealt with promptly and in a spirit of justice.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED. Cipher

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From Peking

File

June 8, 1894.

Gresham

Received M.

Washington

China sending troops Korea to assist that Government against insurgents.

Denby

C

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY. COPIED FOR CONGRESS.
JUL 18 1894

No 1862.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE. JUL 18 1894 RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 9th, 1894.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Ack. 19 July 94

Subject

China sending troops to Korea

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of 8th instant and details steps taken by China to assist Government of Korea against insurgents.

No 1862.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 9th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of yesterday's date as follows:

"China sending troops
"Korea to assist that
"government against
"insurgents".

Without going into an account of the present rebellion in Korea, which has doubtless

— been

been reported by the United States Minister at Seoul, I feel it my duty to advise you of China's action in the matter.

In response to an appeal addressed to China by the King of Korea, through the Chinese resident, 1500 Chinese troops were shipped from Tientsin on the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co's vessels the "Kaean", "Tooan" and "Haeting", on the 6th instant. This force is to be increased to 2225 men. Three Chinese men-of-war have also been ordered to Chemulpo.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang only sent these troops after a long hesitation, the Chinese resident

at

at Seoul having first requested his interference about a month ago. He insisted on an express request for assistance from the King of Korea so that the responsibility for the movement should rest upon him. The Viceroy has formally assured the Japanese Government that these troops shall be withdrawn immediately upon the cessation of hostilities and he has made the same assurances to the Russian Minister here. He has also stated to Japan that he would be pleased to have that government send one or two gunboats to Korea to protect its subjects there.

2t

It is understood that the Chinese force will be primarily used to prevent the approach of the rebels to the capital.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires

ad interim.

No. 1863.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, June 9th, 1894.

—Mr. Charles Denby Jr.—
to the
—Secretary of State—

—Subject.—

Checks having drawn drafts for Contingent Expenses and Repairs allowance for the quarter ending 30th June 1894.

———— - - - ————

No 1863.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 9th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, DC.

Sir:—

I am authorized by your despatch No 882, of April 28th last, I have the honor to inform you that I have this day drawn on you, at fifteen days sight, my drafts for $325.00 and $150.00 respectively, being amounts for Contingent Expenses and Repairs allowance for the quarter Ending June 30th, 1894.

Trusting that these drafts will be duly honored upon presentation

presentation,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires

ad interim.

T. M.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Mr Dabney
JUL 27 1894

No 1864.

To Mrs. Stewart aug. 4. 1894

Acted. aug. 6.

AUG 3 1894

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUL 27 1894
RECEIVED

Peking, June 11th, 1894.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Mrs. Stewart's claim against China

Synopsis

Mr. Denby has presented this claim to the Ministers of the Yamên who promise to refer it to the Chinese Minister at Washington for settlement

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One enclosure.

No 1864.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 11th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report to you as follows with reference to the claim of Mrs. Stewart against the Chinese Government, for damages to her house in Washington, which the Department directed me, in despatch No 877, of the 17th April, to present to the Chinese Government.

On

On the 2nd instant, in a personal interview with the Ministers of the Yamen, I laid Mrs. Stewart's claim before them. As directed by your despatch, I also handed them copies of your despatch, of Mrs. Stewart's petition of the 6th March 1894, and of the lease and affidavits appended thereto. In order to ensure an exact understanding of the matter, I also handed them a written summary of the case in Chinese. The ministers readily admitted the obligation on China to pay proper damages for losses due to neglect or wilful injury, but seemed to regard the claim of $20.000 as excessive. They

promised

promised to refer the case to Mr. Yang Fu, Chinese Minister at Washington, with instructions to take steps in cooperation with the Department of State, to arrive at an exact estimate of the loss and to settle the case.

On the 7th instant, I received from the Yamên a despatch to the same purport as their statements in the above interview. Of this despatch I enclose a copy herewith.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby
June 7th 1894.

Enclosure 1 in despatch No 1864.

The Foreign office to Mr Charles Denby Jr.

No 20.

Peking June 7th 1894

Upon the 2d instant, the Prince and Ministers had the honor to receive a communication from you, which you handed in person, to effect that you had received a despatch from the Honorable Secretary of State enclosing a petition from Mrs Stewart, wife of U. S. Senator Stewart, with reference to damages done to her house in Washington by the members of the Chinese legation who occupied it as tenants; that the loss is estimated by Mrs Stewart at $20.000. gold; that the written contract provided that the Chinese legation should make good all losses to Mrs Stewart for the injury she has suffered; that

a

that a copy of Mr. Stewart's petition
had been brought by the Honorable Secretary
of State to the attention of His Ex: Yang
Yu, Chinese Minister at Washington,
who replied that in the absence
of instructions from his Government
he could make no statements with
reference thereto; that under the
circumstances the Honorable Secretary
of State directed you to bring the
matter to the notice of the Yamên
and as directed you enclosed a copy
of his despatch to you and a copy of
Mr. Stewart's petition to which you
invited attention, &c.

In reply, the Prince and Ministers
would observe that a telegram
was sent by the Yamên to Mr. Minister
Yang at Washington, as well as a
note directing him to confer with

the

the Honorable Secretary of State in regard to the matter. They would further state, however, that when the house in question was leased to the Chinese Legation it was old. It was built 20 years ago. While the workmanship and materials of the house were solid and strong, still it would be difficult to guarantee that no deterioration or damages at all would occur during that time.

The furniture of the house was purchased more than 10 years ago, and could it be expected that articles in daily use would not in the least, in that time, become worn out or destroyed? The claim of Wm. Stewart - $20.000. gold - cannot but be regarded as very Excessive.

In addressing this communication

in

in reply, the Prime and Ministers would beg you to communicate with the Honorable Secretary of State asking him to act with Mr. Minister Yang and appoint officers to make an Examination into the matter with a view to bringing the case to a close upon a just and Equitable basis.

The Prime and Ministers would further observe that the Yamen received a telegram yesterday from Mr. Minister Yang stating that Stewart Smith was recalled by the Chinese Legation in October of last year.

A necessary communication addressed to

Charles Denby Jr. Esqre

&c, &c, &c,

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
AK & file
JUL 27 1894

No 1865.

Recd. July 30. 94

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 12th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUL 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
JUL 28 1894

Subject

Celebration of Empress's birthday

Synopsis

The action of the powers as to making presents on that occasion.



№ 1865.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 12th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Refering to despatch
№ 1819, of the 16th March, from
this Legation, and to the
Department's despatch № 880,
of the 24th April, I have the
honor to state, as far as is
known, what action will be
taken by the powers represented
at Peking as to presents to
the Empress Dowager on the

occasion

occasion of the 60th anniversary
of her birth.

The Russian minister has
suggested to his government
that the Empress of Russia
deliver to the Chinese Minister
at St. Petersburg a present for
the Empress, in her own name.

The British and the German
Governments will send presents
in the names of their sovereigns.
The French Republic will probably
send no present.

The foreign ministers have
not taken up the question of
the making of presents nor of
their attitude in the coming
festivities, nor has the Chinese
Government made any advances

to

to them. Under these circumstances, it is probable that most of those powers which make presents or send letters will do so through the Chinese representatives at their respective capitals.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires

ad interim

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Ack & file
JUL 27 1894

Ackd V July 28.

JUL 27 1894

No 1866.

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
JUL 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Peking, June 12th, 1894.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State

Subject

The Kirin Insurrection

Synopsis

Encloses a newspaper clipping detailing rumors as to this uprising.

One enclosure.

No 1866.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 12th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Many vague reports have recently reached Peking as to an insurrection against the local authorities in Kirin, a province of Manchuria. Nothing definite as to the progress or origin of this movement can be learned here and it is probably of comparative insignificance.

I am

am assured that it has no connection with the uprising in Corea, but is a renewal of the Mongolian Rebellion of two years ago.

I enclose, herewith, a clipping from the North China Daily News of the 5th instant, which details some of the prevailing rumors as to the rebellion. The latest reports indicate that it is well under control and will soon be suppressed.

1
1866

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:
Article "The Kirin Insurrection"
clipped fr. North China Daily News of June 5th

Enclosure in No 1866.

THE KIRIN INSURRECTION.

With reference to the reported insurrection in [illegible] or Central Manchuria, a notice of which appeared in these columns recently, it was at first thought that this was the result of the traders' strike last autumn in the prefecture of Ch'angts'ünfu, occasioned by new arrangements of the likin service and the severe punishments suggested by the Military Governor, or, as he is sometimes termed, the "Tartar-General," Ch'ang Shün. It now transpires however, that the insurrection in question arose from the local authorities attempting to collect full land and poll taxes from ground which had become little more than bare waste, the scene of the troubles being some hundred miles or so distant from the city of Kirin, at a place or mountains tract of land called Maoerhshan or Cap hill. Nearly 11,000 insurgents are reported to be in arms, a large portion of whom are acknowledged to possess breech-loading guns, and who have defeated the Imperialists with great slaughter, in several engagements. The flag under which the insurgents fight is a large red square one with the words, "The mandarins compel the people to rebel," inscribed in white on it. This motto of course explains the whole story, and it was the news of this movement which hastened the departure recently of H.E. Ting An from the side of H.E. Li Hung-chang with whom the former was associated as joint inspector of the defences of the Gulf of Pechili—it being important for this official in his capacity of High Commissioner of Defence of the North-eastern provinces to hurry to Kirin to direct operations against the insurgent rustics. As a good deal of the territory which is now resisting the mandarins lies in the Mongolian section of Aokhan it is surmised that the Mongols are also implicated in the rising. It will perhaps be remembered that in the insurrection of the winter of 1892, at Chaoyang, which also spread to this section, the Mongols suffered severely at the hands of the savage Chinese insurgent sectaries, and to protect themselves in the future against Chinese squatters, the Peking government at the prayer of the Princes of Aokhan and Nainan, granted a quantity of new arms of precision to the Mongol tribesmen there. This would account for the report that the present insurgents are well-armed with breechloaders which, with their superior numbers, have enabled them to almost decimate the Imperialists who have so far been sent against them, especially since the insurgents have been reinforced by some 1,500 mounted banditti composed of disbanded soldiery whose breechloaders (obtained it is claimed from Russian territory) have kept at bay for many years the military sent by repeated Governors to crush them.

Dip

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ask & file
JUL 27 1894

C

No 1867.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 15th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby Jr. to the
Secretary of State.

DIP

JUL 27 1894

Subject

Anti-foreign proclamations in vicinity of Sung-pu.

Synopsis

The Diplomatic Body protests against there proclamations.
Copies of correspondence enclosed.

Two enclosures.

No 1867.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 15th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, copies of a note addressed by the Russian Minister, Dean of the Diplomatic Body, to the Yamên and of the Yamên's reply, with reference to anti-foreign placards which have again appeared in the province of Hu-pei.

1/867

2/867

Copies of there placards were

were forwarded by the Consular Corps at Hankow to the Diplomatic Body at Peking, and a protest against them was placed before the Viceroy at Hankow.

These placards at present complained of differ from previous attacks on foreigners in that they do not advocate their abuse and ill-treatment directly but denounce and threaten vengeance on all Chinese who may have relations with "the barbarians", and particularly those who may sell or lease them land. In a hand-bill posted up in the Sung-pu district it is stated that

"foreigners

"foreigners may, in accordance
"with the laws of hospitality,
"be boarded and lodged, but
"any inn-keeper who dares to
"keep them more than a few
"days will, on discovery, have
"his house razed to the
"ground and his land converted
"to the public use".

It is also directed that
foreigners' books must not be
bought and that those who
buy them shall "be dealt with
"by the people".

This handbill threatens with
death anyone who sells land
to foreigners. It closes with
the announcement "If anyone
"in his greed for gain permits

a

"a foreigner to build other houses,
"the headman is to inform us,
"we will destroy them and thus
"prevent future calamities".

The proclamations in the other localities are of the same character.

The people of Sungpu and vicinity, frightened by the terrible calamities which the official investigation of the murder of the Swedish missionaries last year brought upon them, seem determined on a policy of absolute non-intercourse with foreigners. They regard the presence of a missionary or a chapel as a source from which at any moment great

disasters

disasters may arise, and there can be no doubt of the efficacy of their preventive measures. These proclamations, however, tend directly to excite active hostility to foreigners and it is to be hoped that the authorities will use vigorous means to suppress them.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

1. Count Cassini to the Tsungli Yamên, June 1st, 1894.

2. The Tsungli Yamên to Count Cassini, June 9th, 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No 1867

Count Cassini, Dean of the
Diplomatic Body to the
Tsungli Yamên.

June 1st 1894.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I learn
that placards extremely hostile
to foreigners — of which you
will find enclosed several
specimens — have been again
ported in different localities
of Hu-kuang, and noticeably
at Sung-pu itself, where last
year two unfortunate Swedish
missionaries were traitorously
massacred, and at Hwang-chou.

In the presence of these facts
and others, as that of the outrages
of which a Russian subject at
Hankow, Mr. Daniloff, was
recently the victim, which prove
once more that the hostility of
the people along the Yangtze towards
peaceable

peaceable foreigners has in no respect diminished, the Foreign Representatives believe it to be their duty to insist in the most energetic manner that the Tsung li Yamên give the most severe orders to the provincial authorities in order to prevent the recurrence of events so sincerely to be regretted and in order to assure to foreigners the liberty and security which the treaties guarantee them.

While recognizing that the Tsungli Yamên has, to a certain degree, complied with the demands formulated by Colonel Denby in the name of the Diplomatic Body in his letter of the 2nd February last, in having posted anew in certain localities along the Yangtze the important imperial edict of the 13th June 1891, it is greatly to be regretted finally that the imperial government has not

given

given it greater publicity, and, above all, that the government has not considered it its duty to have this edict preceded or followed by a sentence with reference to what occurred at Sungpan, and that this edict has not, therefore, produced the effect which was to be expected of it.

The Foreign Representatives accredited to Peking expect that Your Imperial Highness and Your Excellencies will not fail to take the necessary steps in order that these placards, which they have had the audacity to post beside the imperial edict of 1891, be removed, their authors punished; and that, finally, the most severe oversight be exercised to put an end to this excitement of the people against foreigners which might lead to a recurrence of the melancholy events of last year.

I am charged to make this communication in the name of my colleagues of the Diplomatic Corps and I seize this occasion to renew to Your Imperial Highness and Your Excellencies the assurances etc- etc. etc.

(S'g'd) Count Tornielli

Enclosure 2 in No 1867

The Hungli Yamên to Count Cassini, Dean of the Diplomatic Body.

June 9th 1894.

Official Reply:

On the 28th day of the 4th moon of the 20th year of Kuang Hsü (1st June 1894) we received from Your Excellency a despatch under cover of which you sent us two anonymous placards coming from Ma Cheng (department of Hwang Chou), and in which you asked us to give orders to the high authorities of the said province in order to secure the exercise of such protection as the treaties provide.

This Yamên having telegraphed to the province of Hu-peh that the facts be ascertained and preventive measures taken, received from the Viceroy of Hu-

Kuang

Kuang the following telegraphic reply:

"In the matter of placards at
"Sung-pu and other localities
"in the sub-prefecture of
"Ma-cheng, I had previously
"received despatches from
"several consuls at Hankow,
"and I have already ordered
"the local authorities to
"actively search for such
"placards and to forbid and
"to destroy them. The people
"of Sung-pu, fearing that
"some affair similar to that
"of last year might occur,
"have joined together and
"exercise themselves supervision.
"This causes no harm to
"foreigners. If one considers
"attentively the sentiments
"of the people at this hour
"one cannot fail to give
"secret and severe orders of

"a preventive character but
"one cannot act with too
"great precipitation lest
"disorder might ensue."

This Yamên has again ordered the local authorities to continue their investigations and in case placards are found they will prohibit them; we also send a copy of Your Excellency's despatch to the Viceroy of Hu-kuang that he may reply in detail. We consider it also our duty to address to Your Excellency this reply for your information.

Recd. Aug. 7, 1894.

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AUG 6 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 1868.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 18th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 6 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Seizure of missionary's land in Hainan

Synopsis

The Yamen replies to Mr. Denby's despatch as to the seizure of American Presbyterian Mission's property at Kiungchow, alleging fraud in its acquisition. Mr. Denby advises the mission to agree upon another site

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One enclosure.

No 1868.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 18th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Refering to my despatch No 1861, of the 8th instant, I have the honor to enclose, herewith, the Yamên's reply concerning the seizure of land belonging to the American Presbyterian Mission in Hainan.

1/868

This despatch gives a long account of the official investigation which followed the purchase

of

One enclosure.

No 1868.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 18th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No 1861, of the 8th instant, I have the honor to enclose, herewith, the Yamên's reply concerning the seizure of land belonging to the American Presbyterian Mission in Hainan.

1/868

This despatch gives a long account of the official investigation which followed the purchase

of

of this land. The Yamên asserts that the missionaries acquired the land by fraud, and states that the purchase money should be refunded them and the land revert to its original owners. In compliance with my request, however, the Viceroy at Canton has been directed to investigate and report upon the case. I shall make no further representations to the Yamên in the premises until the Viceroy's report shall have been received. Before that time, it is to be hoped, the case will have been brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

I have forwarded a copy

of the Yamên's despatch to the United States consul at Canton and have written him as follows:

"Without putting faith in "the Chinese authorities' charges "of fraud in the acquisition of "this land, I am of the opinion "that it would be advisable "for the mission to give up the "land in dispute, take back "their purchase money, and agree "with the authorities on another "site of which they may have "peaceable possession. Article "XVII of the Treaty of 1844 "provides that Americans, in "acquiring land, shall not "unreasonably insist on particular

spots

"ports. Article XII of the Treaty
"of 1858 contains the same
"provision.

"The Viceroy being now directed
"to investigate this case, the
"time seems favorable for you
"to cooperate with him in
"bringing it to a conclusion.
"I hope you will be successful
"in inducing the Chinese
"authorities and the members
"of the mission to agree upon
"a site which may be acquired
"without opposition and held
"in peaceful possession."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure

Enclosure:

1. The Tsungli Yamen to Mr. Charles Denby Jr., June 13th 1894.

Enclosure in No. 1868.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Charles Denby Jr.

Note June 13th 1894.

Monsieur le Chargé d'affaires:

We have had the honor to receive your note wherein you bring to our notice the unlawful conduct of certain officials in the island of Hainan, with reference to a piece of land belonging to the American Presbyterian Mission, and you requested that proper measures be taken to have the matter dealt with promptly and in a spirit of justice.

With regard to this case, we may observe that in the years 1886-1887 His Excellency M. Cournany, Russian Minister at that time, addressed the Yamên in reference thereto and the Yamên in turn wrote to the Viceroy at Canton to examine

and

and deal with it accordingly.

In 1888, the Viceroy at Canton reported as follows:

"Mr. Liu, magistrate of
"Chung Shan district, presented
"a petition to effect that in
"this case, on the 5th of May
"1886, the literati, Cheng
"Fen-chang and others, lodged
"a joint complaint against
"Wang Ting-mu and others
"of having privately sold to
"foreigners the piece of land,
"outside of the West Gate,
"known as Kan Che Yuan,
"for the purpose of erecting
"buildings thereon. The said
"land is close to the city
"wall; it is on the West Gate
"thoroughfare where people
"are living scattered about
"and it would not be
"convenient for foreigners to
"locate there; and the

complainants

"complainants, therefore,
"begged that the matter be
"investigated.

"The former magistrate
"then deputed policemen
"to arrest Wang Ting-mu and
"the other men. Upon the 11th
"of May, the magistrate heard
"their evidence, which was
"to effect that the piece of
"land outside of the West
"Gate, known as the Kan
"Lo Yuan, was bought by
"them in 1879. In 1891 or
"1892*, Wu Ke-chun, alias
"Wu Hung-chun, alias Wu
"Cho-chi, residing at the
"East Gate of the prefectural
"city, suddenly appeared
"and stated that Wang
"I-cheng and Wang Ting-
"cheng, of a place called
"Ting An, wished to buy
"the land in question for
"the purpose of establishing

* This is a mistake in Chinese text a
Hwas in 1886 or 1887.

"a book-store there. The price
"fixed upon was 600.000
"cash and they agreed to take
"the place. Deeds were made
"out and the purchase money
"paid. Nothing was said about
"the place being bought by
"foreigners. Cheng Hsien-lien,
"a licentiate of Chiung Shan
"district, was present and
"knows all about the proceedings.
"Wu Hsien-chi made out the
"deeds. Suddenly there
"appeared a Dane, called
"Teh Chi-shan (Jeremiassen)
"who falsely claimed that he
"had purchased the property
"and was to erect a foreign building
"on it. This led to the
"literati lodging a complaint
"and asking their (Wang
"Ting-nan and others) arrest
"and examination. Further
"a despatch was sent to the

foreign

"foreign official concerned
"requesting him to look into
"the matter. The men were
"willing to return the
"money and thus avoid
"popular indignation among
"the people.

"After Mr. magistrate Chen
"had vacated his office, his
"successor, magistrate Tao,
"had the parties to the case
"brought before him. The acting
"British consul Mr. Brown
"called on the Taotai and
"discussed the matter with
"him. He set forth that Chinug
"Chow prefectural city was
"a treaty port, that the
"position assumed by Mr.
"Chen, former magistrate, in
"his communication that it
"was in the interior was
"inadmissible. At the time,
"the acting taotai issued
"instructions to have the

boundaries

"boundaries surveyed, decide
"the question upon treaty
"basis and report. The
"magistrate, Mr. Fao, had a
"survey made.

"As to the treaty port of
"Chiung Chow, in the 2nd moon
"of the 3rd year of Kuang Hsü
"(about the beginning of 1877) the
"viceroy of Canton at that time
"ordered the taotai of Lei-chou
"and Chiung Chow to confer
"with the acting British
"consul Mr. Bullock, and
"they agreed upon the following
"as the boundaries of the
"port:

"East to the Pai-sha village;
"West to the Yen-teao village;
"South to the Ying-En bridge;
"North to the Pei-sha Chiang
"or creek on the sea-coast.'
"Land outside of the above
"boundaries is to be regarded
as

"as in the interior. A plan
"was made out and submitted
"to be placed on file, and a
"communication, embodying
"the result of the survey
"arrived at, was sent to the
"British consul and is a
"matter of record.

After taking charge of
"his office, Magistrate Tao
"again had Wu Cho-chi
"brought before him by his
"police and examined him.
"He stated that, at the time
"when he was in league with
"others to buy the Kan Che
"garden, Wang Ying-cheng
"and Wang Ji-cheng were not
"at all connected with the
"transaction. He was a workman
"employed by the Danish
"Doctor Jeremiassen, named
"Chen Po-keuan, who approached
"and consulted with him
"as he was afraid the owner

would

"would not like to sell the
"land to a foreigner. Therefore
"the names of Wang Ying-cheng
"and Wang I-cheng were falsely
"represented as the buyers and
"the names of Wang Sheng-chi
"and others were falsely
"represented as the sellers. The
"price, 600.00 cash, was agreed
"upon with Wang Sheng-chi
"and others. But Chen Pu-hsuan
"misappropriated or added for
"himself $200 and explained
"to the Doctor that the purchase
"money would be $800. In
"addition Wu Cho-chi got $50
"as present money — making
"the total price of the land
"$850.

"Chen Chuan-yen's name as
"writer of the deed was also
"a counterfeit and fabrication
"and the evidence produced
"went to substantiate this
fact

"fact.

"At the time, a communication
"was sent to the British
"Consul, requesting him to
"instruct Mr. Terenziaseu
"to send Chen Pu-haiian
"to court so that he could
"confront the other witnesses
"in evidence. Further a
"summons was issued for
"Wang Sheng-chi to again
"appear in court for further
"examination. He testified
"that, at the time the said
"flower garden was sold,
"the transaction was in the
"hands of Wu Cho-chi and
"the only thing represented was
"that the place was sold to
"Wang, Ying-cheng and Wang
"D.-cheng for the purpose of
"erecting buildings thereon.
"No mention was made that
"the place was sold to a
"foreign doctor. Wu Cho-chi's

having

"having played a double
"part, a trick, in the transaction
"was not known to him. Since
"there had been a treacherous
"scheme in league with others
"to buy the land in question
"he is willing to refund the
"$800 and cancel the sale.
"The amount received by Wu
"Cho-chi — $50 — he is also
"willing to return himself
"to the foreign missionaries
"and requests that Wu Cho-chi
"be incarcerated and steps
"be taken to recover the said
"sum.

"The evidence of the middle
"men, Cheng Chiiao-yen and
"others coincided with the above.

"It appears that foreigners
"have never been prohibited from
"acquiring property at the
"treaty ports, but the land in
"question is situate outside
"of the four boundaries of the

port

"port originally agreed upon.
"It necessarily rests with the
"owner of the land to say
"whether he is willing to
"part with it or not. The
"middle man Wu Cho-chi
"knew well that Wang Sheng-chi
"and others were not willing
"to sell the property to the
"foreign doctor and the names
"Wang Ting-cheng and Wang
"I-ting were a mere fabrication
"for the purpose of accomplishing
"the fraudulent purchase of it.

"According to Chinese law
"the money paid for land
"fraudulently obtained should
"be confiscated, but considering
"that Mr. Jeremiassen is a
"Danish doctor, it would not
"be convenient to restrain
"him by this law.

"Now, according to the
"representations of Wang Sheng-
"chi and others, they are

willing

"willing to return the purchase
"money as well as the money
"squeezed by Chen Pu-kwan
"and the present money of the
"Cho-chi, and thus settle the
"case and avoid further litigation
"and trouble.

"In accordance with their
"wish the deeds should be
"cancelled, the purchase money
"sent to the taotai, to be temporarily
"retained by him in his treasury
"until it can be handed over
"to the foreigner and the
"property resent to the original
"owners. The viceroy is requested
"to address the Tungli Yamên
"to have the case in question
"cancelled which would be
"just and equitable".

The Yamên having received the foregoing representations would observe that with reference to the said doctor Yeh Chi Shan in

the

the communication sent he is styled Yeh-li-mi-ren, a Dane.

A workman in said doctor's employ, one Chen Pu-kwan, in league with Wu Cho-chi, by the use of false names, fraudulently purchased the land of Wang Ting-mei and others. The magistrate tried the case in court and took the evidence of witnesses. He decided that the money should be returned, the case brought to a close and the property revert to the original owner. The action thus taken is in accordance with law. The said doctor did not actually come into full possession of the property. Hence how could he lease or sell property of another man to the American Presbyterian Mission?

Further the matter has been pending eight years, and if the case was one bona fide in its

nature

nature how is it that the missionaries formerly had nothing to say about it?

Further it appears that in 1889 Minister Denby, on his return to Peking from Canton, addressed the Yamên in regard to the American missionary cases at Canton - in all five - requesting that no time be lost in bringing them to a termination. Nothing was said about the land question now under discussion. It would, therefore, seem that the representations made by the missionaries are not real and well founded. But as you have asked that the matter be looked into and dealt with accordingly, the Yamên has addressed the Viceroy at Canton to clearly investigate it and transmit a report thereon, on receipt of which we will communicate the same to you. In the meantime we send

this

this note for your information.

Cards of ministers with compliments.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject & file
aas
AUG 6 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 1869.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 19th, 1894.

Acknd Aug 7.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 9 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Anti-foreign feeling at Canton

Synopsis

On receipt of a telegram from the United States consul at Canton, Mr. Denby requests the Yamên to protect foreigners at that city. Yamên replies that anti-foreign feeling is due to action at Hongkong in suppressing plague. The Yamên assures protection.

No 1869.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 19th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that, on the 15th instant, I received, from the Consul General of the United States at Shanghai, a telegram stating that the Consul at Canton had wired him that anti-foreign placards were posted at that city, that serious trouble was expected

and

and asking protection.

Immediately upon the receipt thereof, I sent a note to the Tungli Yamên requesting that telegraphic orders be sent to Canton enjoining the protection of foreigners.

The Yamên states to me, in reply, that the Viceroy telegraphs them that "the Hongkong "authorities were burning the "houses of Chinese in order to "drive out the plague, and under "foreign medical treatment many "Chinese have died. Further the "Hongkong authorities have "refused to allow Chinese to "return to Canton by steamer, "and all this has led to

disturbing

"disturbing the minds of the
"people at Canton, hence the
"placards that have been
"ported".

The viceroy further says that
he has issued orders prohibiting
the porting of placards, and that
he has sent vessels to Hongkong
to bring to Canton those Chinese
rendered homeless by the
Hongkong officials.

The Yamên assures me, in
conclusion, that the viceroy
has been again ordered, in
compliance with my request, to
take "earnest action" to protect
foreigners.

From other sources I learn
that the Hongkong Government

has

has been driven to the use
of the most drastic measures
for the suppression of the
plague, even to the destruction
of part of the city. The prohibition
to return to Canton by steamer
has, however, been removed,
and the Chinese are leaving
Hongkong in enormous
numbers. It is said that one
hundred and twenty thousand
of them have already departed,
carrying into Canton and
other cities their dead and
plague-stricken countrymen.
Quarantine against the
southern ports has been
declared at Shanghai and
Tientsin, which cities, happily,

have

have so far escaped a visitation
of this malady. It is to be
hoped it will not make
its appearance at Peking,
the foulness of whose streets
and the filthy habits of whose
people would present very
encouragement to its ravages.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Copy of Customs Gazette to Treasury Aug 6 94

No 1879. Ph Offy to Treasury Aug 6 94

Copies of Notices of Promotion to Hydrographic Bureau, Navy Dept Aug 6 94

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 8 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 20th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 6 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Forwards Customs Gazette

No 1870.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 20th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward to you, under separate cover, duplicate copies of the Customs Gazette No C1. January-March 1894, and duplicate copies of notices to mariners Nos 284, 285 and 286.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

COPIED FOR CONGRESS
DIPLOMATIC

Acpt Aug 8

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject - Keep Dept fully advised -
AUG 7 1894

AUG 7 1894

No 1871.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 26th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 3 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

China and Japan in Corea

Synopsis

China and Japan being drawn into serious complications over Corean insurrection. Further despatch of Chinese troops.

Ack'd Aug 8 ✓

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject. Keep Dept fully advised.
aaa
AUG 7 1894

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DIPLOMATIC
AUG 7 1894

No 1871.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 26th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 3 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby Jr. to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

China and Japan in Corea

Synopsis

China and Japan being drawn into serious complications over Corean insurrection. Further despatch of Chinese troops.

No 1871.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 26th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The Corean insurrection, and the part taken in it by China and Japan, continue to excite the utmost interest here. The insurrection itself has sunk into insignificance compared with the complications between Corea's two nearest neighbors to which it has given rise.

I am informed that more than four thousand Japanese troops are now in Corea and that the Japanese Government is making preparations and holding itself in readiness for important movements. China, also, is increasing her forces. In addition to previous shipments, several hundred soldiers left Taku on the 22nd instant for Chemulpo, and there are but part of five thousand that are under orders to embark.

I am informed by the Chargé d'Affaires of Japan that a Japanese force is now in possession of Seoul and

that

that the Chinese are encamped fifteen miles south of that city. The Japanese Government does not propose to withdraw its forces until definite guarantees are given by China that it will not again interfere in Corean affairs except as provided by the convention with Japan. This convention, executed at Tientsin in 1885, contains the following paragraph:

"In case of any disturbance "of a grave nature occurring "in Corea which necessitates "the respective countries, or "either of them, to send troops "to Corea, it is hereby understood "that they shall give, each to

the

"the other, previous notice in
"writing of their intention so
"to do, and that, after the
"matter is settled, they shall
"withdraw their troops
"immediately and not further
"station them there".

It is asserted that, in the present instance, the action of China was only communicated to Japan after it was an accomplished fact. The Chinese troops left Taku the 3rd and arrived at Chemulpo the 5th instant, and it was not until this latter date, viz. June 5th, that notice of their departure was given at Tokio. Japan, in more faithful

observation

observation of the convention, notified China on the 7th instant that she had sent troops, which were disembarked on the 10th.

The ministers of the Yamên talk of this affair as if it were entirely in the hands of Li Hung-chang. This confirms a report, which I have from the most reliable sources, that a secret imperial edict of about ten days ago constituted the great viceroy plenipotentiary in this affair even to the power of dictating peace or war. The edict stated, however, that war would be exceedingly to be regretted

in

in this year of rejoicing over the Empress' sixtieth birthday.

The action of Japan is criticised here as hasty and unduly bellicose. Though there was never an international quarrel with less grounds for its justification, a conflict between the forces of the two countries seems imminent; a conflict which, if left to take its course free from interference on the part of other powers, must inevitably result in the triumph of the Chinese arms. There is no parity between the antagonists. The army of Japan upon a war footing is only one hundred and twenty

thousand

thousand men, while the viceroy Li alone has fifty thousand foreign drilled troops armed with modern arms, and of fine discipline and efficiency. Besides there there are many thousand foreign drilled troops in other parts of the empire, and a practicably inexhaustible supply of the old-fashioned native soldiery.

It is reported today that the representatives of the foreign powers at Seoul are striving to avert a conflict by inducing a simultaneous withdrawal of the hostile forces."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack & file. ABR
AUG 17 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS.
AUG 17 1894

C

No 1872.

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 16 1894
RECEIVED.

Peking, June 29th, 1894.

Ackd. Aug. 18.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Mission site in Kaifan

Synopsis

The Viceroy at Canton consents to cooperate in selection of.

No 1872.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, June 29th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Refering to my despatch No 1868, of the 18th instant, concerning the dispute in the island of Hainan over the choice of a mission site, I have the honor to report that the Viceroy has consented to the selection of such a site in cooperation with the missionaries.

I have expressed to the

United

United States consul at
Canton a hope that this consent
will be availed of to bring
this dispute to a termination.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State. JUL 5 1894

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

From Peking

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU JUL 5 1894

11.16 A.M. July 3, 1894.

Confirmed 6 July '94. M

GRESHAM,

S.D.Washington, D.C.

Korean situation is critical. Hostilities imminent. Chinese government shows conciliatory attitude in spite of aggressive action of Japan and asks good offices of England(and)Russia to secure peaceful solution.

Denby.

No 1873.



Legation of the United States
Peking, July 3d 1894.

— Wm Charles Bonsby Jr. —
to the
— Secretary of State —
— Subject —
Enclosing statement of Rent Account
for quarter ending June 30th, 1894.

———— — — — ————

No 1873. Our Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 3d, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to Enclose
1873. a statement of the Rent-account of
this Legation for the quarter ended
June 30th, 1894.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires
ad interim

T. M.

Enclosure 1-
Statement as above.

Inclosure No 1 to Desp. No 874.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 16 1894
RECEIVED.

PASSPORT DIV.
AUG 17 94
DEPT. OF STATE.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 17 1894

No 874.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 3d, 1894.

— Hon. Charles Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing Statement of Passports for quarter Ended June 30th, 1894.

— — — — —

No. 1874. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 3d, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to Enclose
a Statement of Passports issued at
this Legation during the quarter
ended June 30th, 1894.

1874.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires
ad interim.

Enclosure 1.
Statement as above.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack by subject and approve
Mr. D's course in thanking
Mr. Barton.
AUG 17 1894

Secretary of State.
AUG 18 1894

No 1875.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 3rd, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
AUG 16 1894
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
AUG 17 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Attack on missionary ladies, Canton.

Synopsis

Encloses newspaper account of attack on two American missionaries at Canton. Legation thanks Mr. Barton, to whom they owe their rescue.

One enclosure.

No 1875.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 3rd, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to
enclose, herewith, a clipping
from the North China Daily
News, of the 25th ultimo, giving
an account of the attack made
on the 11th ultimo by a mob
at Honam, opposite Canton, on
Miss Bigler and Miss Halvenon,
two American missionary
doctors.

1/875

The

The consul at Canton recommended that some recognition be made of the services of Mr. Barton, an employee of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, to whose energy and courage these two ladies chiefly owe their rescue. I have accordingly expressed to the Inspector General of Customs this Legation's high appreciation of Mr. Barton's conduct.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Clipping from N.C. Daily News of June 25th 1894.

Enclosure in No 1875.

The North-China Daily News. June 25th 1894.

THE OUTRAGE UPON LADIES IN CANTON.

The Rev. E. E. Fix, Superintendent of the United Brethren Mission, Canton, has written to the Hongkong *Daily Press* a long letter regarding the attack on the two missionary doctors Dr. Halverson and Dr. Bigler, on the 11th inst., in which he states that previous accounts of the incident have been erroneous. According to the corrected version Dr. Bigler and Dr. Halverson were informed that a man was lying sick on the doorstep of the mission. They went down and saw the man was suffering from plague. He said he had no friends in the city, and in consequence of his sickness had been put off the boat on which he had been working. He consented to be taken to the Canton Missionary Hospital, and after being given a cup of tea he started off towards the river, following Dr. Halverson, with the intention of getting a boat to go to the hospital. Dr. Halverson did not assist him, or give him any smelling salts or medicine of any kind. Whilst Dr. Halverson was endeavouring to see that the man got a boat to take him to the hospital, she encountered a mob. They shouted that the foreign "devil woman" was carrying the man away to kill him. She was surrounded, hustled, and savagely struck, all her appeals to several shopkeepers for shelter being refused. She was dragged by them out of one shop in which she had taken refuge, and carried along by a cursing, yelling crowd. Several times she fell, and some dirty water was thrown over her. Finally she was brought to an open space where the mob evidently intended to kill her. "But fortunately," continues Mr. Fix, "she managed to keep on her feet and endeavoured to make her way across the open to the north-west, toward the Customs Terrace. The boys of the mob had already covered her with soft mud from head to foot. There is a street running north from the Customs Terrace to our home street. She wanted to reach this street, but two or three of the mob ran around already and locked the street gates. How she ever managed to get across to the back of Mr. Barton's house through that volley of stones is a miracle to me. One stone struck her on the back of the head cutting a gash about three inches long. But she had become so numbed by this time that the sense of pain was almost gone. Mr. Barton on hearing the noise of the mob, ran out and saw her near his back door, but the water was so deep that he ran out the front way to let her in that way. He found the street gate locked and a man holding the key in his hand. He ran back and opened the back door and helped her in and barred the door. The mob assaulted the house with stones. Mr. Barton sent his servant out the front way to the Custom House to ask for men and soldiers. By this time Mr. Haydon, living in the adjoining house, and who was asleep at the time, was aroused by the noise. He and Mr. Barton donned their official coats and presented themselves with their revolvers and held the mob at bay until the Customs men and soldiers came, which was not long."

During all this time Dr. Bigler was having her separate experiences. After attending to some Chinese patients she became uneasy at the long absence of Dr. Halverson and went out to seek her. She was told that a foreign woman was being attacked in a house, but she could not find the locality for some time. Eventually succeeding she went to find a chair as Dr. Halverson believed she could return home by that means. In her wanderings she turned into a blind street, and the mob, thinking they had her caged, showered large stones at her, one of which would have probably killed her had it not been for her thick sun hat. As it was the stone cut through the hat and into her scalp. Managing to get through the mob, who were evidently awed by her determined mien, she was rescued by a Christian Chinaman, who rushed out and took her into his house. Some time after she was rescued by the Customs men and soldiers and taken home with Dr. Halverson.

It is denied that the sick man died on the street at the beginning of the trouble, and it is stated that he was seen some time after the riot trying himself to get a boat to go down the river. The ladies desire to express their over-flowing gratitude to their rescuers, especially to Mr. Barton and the Christian Chinaman (Tsz), who took them into their houses; also to Consul Seymour for the promptness and energy with which he was trying to bring the offenders to justice.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG17 1894

No. 1876.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 5th, 1894.

Rec'd Aug. 18.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 16 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Instruction to Shanghai August 21. 1894

Subject

Chinese as acting consuls.

Synopsis.

Yamên objects to the delegation of consular functions to Chinese subjects. Mr. Denby has instructed United States consul at Chinkiang not to leave interpreter in charge. Requests general instructions to this effect.

One enclosure.

No 1876.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that I am in receipt of a despatch from the Yamên, dated the 2nd instant, in which they say that the Inspector General of Customs has reported to them that the United States Consul at Chinkiang had recently written the Commissioner of Customs at

at that port saying that "he "was going to Shanghai on "business and that during his "absence all reports to the "customs and other customs "business would be attended "to by the interpreter of the "consulate who would act "temporarily for him". The Inspector General stated to the Yamên that this interpreter, Mr. Wen Ping-chung, is a Chinese subject, and asked instructions as to his recognition in the transaction of consular business.

The Yamên write me that it is not convenient for customs and other Chinese officials to have official relations with

Chinese

Chinese subjects acting as foreign consuls, and request me to instruct Mr. Jones not to designate Chen Ping-chung to act for him in his consular capacity.

I have written to Mr. Jones as requested by the Yamên, and I have replied to the Yamên stating that their request has been complied with.

I infer from the Department's instructions No 776, of February 25th, 1893, and No 792, of April 29th, of the same year, that the United States Government is not disposed to insist on the recognition by China of consular officials objectionable on account of being Chinese subjects. I

submit

1/876

submit whether it would not be advisable by a note in the Consular Regulations, or otherwise, to notify the consuls that no commission will be issued to Chinese subjects as consular officers in China, and that such subjects are not in any case to be left in charge of consulates for the performance of duties which may involve official relations with Chinese officials.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Mr. Denby to Mr. Jones, No. 212, July 3rd 18

Enclosure in No 1876.

Mr. Denby to Mr. Jones.

No 212. July 3rd 1894.

Sir:

The Kungli Yamen has written me, under date of the 2nd instant, stating that the Inspector General of Customs had reported to them that he was advised by the Commissioner of Customs at Chinkiang that applications for inland transit certificates had been made recently by merchants at that port, and that these applications had been signed by Wen Ping-chung acting for the United States consul. The Commissioner stated that he had received "a letter from "General Jones, United States "Consul, stating that he was "going to Shanghai on business "and that during his absence "all reports to the Customs and

other

"other Customs business would
"be attended to by the interpreter
"of the consulate who would act
"temporarily for him."

The Inspector General asks the Yamên's instructions as to whether Mr. Uren Ping-chung is to be recognized in this acting capacity.

The Yamên states that it is not convenient for Chinese subjects to transact consular business with Customs officers and local authorities and asks me "to address Mr. Consul Jones "that he need not instruct Mr. "Uren Ping-chung to act for him "in his consular capacity".

With reference to this matter I have to state that the Yamên has persistently refused to grant exequatur to, or otherwise recognize, Chinese subjects nominated as United States Vice Consuls, deputy consuls or other consular officials. This Legation has, with the approval

of

of the Department of State, on two occasions, withdrawn requests for such recognition and it is believed that our Government will decline in future to make such appointments. It would seem, therefore, that no Chinese subject, employed in no matter what capacity, can be properly left, in the absence of the consul, to perform consular duties which bring him into official relations with the customs or other Chinese officials, and that such officials are entitled to decline to receive him and to refuse to recognize his power to act.

Under these circumstances I am compelled to accede to the Yamen's request and to ask you in future not to designate any Chinese subject to act for you in your official capacity during your absence.

)

I am etc.,

(s'g'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
AUG 17 1894

No 1877.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 5th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 16 1894
RECEIVED.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 17 1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

China and Japan in Corea.

Synopsis

Encloses editorials from the North China Daily News on the Corean situation

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Three enclosures.

No 1877.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, three clippings from the North China Daily News, of Shanghai, being the leading articles of the issues of June 25th, June 26th, and June 28th.

The general tone of these editorials — that Japan has no shadow of right on her side

no 3
877

side if she drives China into war — expresses, I believe, the sentiment of all observers in the East.

The editorial of the 26th June will be found interesting as giving a review of the public utterances of two Japanese men of eminence as to Japan's attitude in this emergency.

The statement in the editorial of the 28th of Japan's demands, viz. the cession of an island, the renouncement of all claim to suzerainty, the payment of an indemnity etc., is believed to be far in excess of Japan's actual demands.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

1. N. C. Daily News leading Article June 25th.
2. " " " " " " " 26th.
3. " " " " " " " 28th.

Enclosure 1 in No 1877

The
North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, 25TH JUNE, 1894.

IF Japan is not deliberately provoking a war with China, it is difficult to know what her aggression on Corea means. She is rapidly increasing her military and naval forces there, on the pretext—the only one we have seen put forward—that her residents in Corea require protection, though no one is menacing them. The latest news is that she declines to withdraw her troops except on terms that it is impossible for China to accept; and in Tientsin, as in Shanghai, the situation is regarded as critical. Any yielding on the part of China—which is not likely to yield to Japan in any case—would be the ruin of the Viceroy Li Hung-chang. For years he has had a free hand, and has been allowed to lavish money in the creation of a modern fleet, the construction of fortifications, and the organisation of an army; and he could not now allow that China is unprepared to fight such a comparatively insignificant enemy. We cannot see that Japan has a shadow of right on her side, if she drives China into a war, but her Government seems to think that something must be done to divert the people's minds, and that a foreign is better than a civil war; and hence this entirely unprovoked attack on Corea and her suzerain, China. We should like to see the Powers chiefly interested in the Far East uniting in forbidding Japan to carry on the perpetration of this outrage on the peace of the East, but this, we fear, is a hope that will not be realised. Meanwhile, the Chinese Northern Fleet has arrived at Chemulpo, where there is already a large Japanese squadron, and the Chinese and Japanese land forces are within a day's march of each other; and any moment may bring us news of a collision.

The
North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, 26TH JUNE, 1894.

Enclosure 2 in No 1877

In the latest issue to hand of the *Japan Weekly Mail* translations are given of the recently expressed views of two titled Japanese men of eminence on the Corean question; and those views must be very interesting to us under the present critical circumstances. Count Okuma's views were published, we learn, in his organ, the *Hochi Shimbun*. Only one policy, he said, can and ought to be followed by Japan towards Corea. It is unnecessary to go back to the conquest of Corea by the Empress Jingo, and its invasion by Hideyoshi's generals. The leading fact now is that Japan opened Corea to the world, and it is Japan's duty "to suffer no other Power to retard the progress or endanger the independence of Corea." As to the insurgents, unless they are competent to reorganise the country, it "would be better that they were quickly put down even by the aid of Chinese troops, than that they should be suffered to annoy the peaceful inhabitants of the peninsula for an indefinite length of time. Some people fear that, if Chinese troops be suffered to repress the insurrection, China may attempt either to annex Corea or at least to interfere with the latter's domestic affairs to an extent injurious to Japan's interests." Count Okuma is not afraid of this, because the independence of Corea is as important to China as it is to Japan, and because China would have to reckon with Japan if she did anything in Corea prejudicial to Japan's interests. Count Okuma has not the least doubt what would be the issue of a struggle between China and Japan; and any other Power, such as England, Russia, and so forth, that interferes with Japanese interests, must be prepared to encounter a resolute and desperate resistance. *The time has at last arrived for Japan to wipe away the disgrace of 1884; i.e.*, the moral defeat which Japan sustained after Kim-ok-Kiun's abortive insurrection. Count Okuma allows that the forces Japan has despatched to Corea are much larger than would be necessary to protect the Japanese residents in that country. "By making a judicious use of the present unique opportunity, it will be possible for the Japanese Government to retrieve all past errors, and make the Empire respected and feared not only by Corea but also by the rest of the world." The words we have underlined and the whole of the article have no meaning, if they do not mean that Japan is to oust China by force if necessary from her suzerainty over Corea.

Viscount Tani's views were given in the form of a lecture on the 10th instant to the Oriental Association. We have no reason to doubt that the Viceroy Li's object in sending a comparatively small force to Corea, and landing it near the seat of the rebellion, at some distance from the capital, was to put down the rebellion, the King of Corea having asked for assistance, and the proper notice having been sent to the Japanese Government. Viscount Tani knows better. China's object, he says, "in sending troops to Corea in the present instance must be to thwart the supposed aggressive policy of Japan and once for all to place the peninsula in a definite relationship of dependency towards herself. Hence Japan, since she too has despatched a force to Corea, should be prepared for whatever emergency may arise hereafter." It is a great pity, Viscount Tani thinks, that the rebellion should be suppressed too soon, and the *Japan Mail* explains the meaning of this as follows:—"A great many Japanese have grown tired of peace. The luxury of tranquillity was never keenly appreciated by this brave, restless, people, and nothing could be more welcome to them at present than an opportunity to vary by a foreign campaign the monotony of domestic bickerings and political squabbles."

In another column the *Japan Mail* repeats that "it is apparent that the restless energies of the people yearn for employment in a foreign war. The real difficulty that the Japanese Cabinet has now to grapple with, is not China's aggressive designs upon the peninsular kingdom, but the control of the warlike spirit roused among its own countrymen." It is all very well to talk of China's aggressive designs upon Corea, of which there is no proof whatever, and of the Japanese Cabinet's difficulty in controlling the warlike spirit of the people. To most onlookers it will seem that the Cabinet has fomented this warlike spirit in order—as many of the Opposition journals in Japan have discerned—to divert the popular mind from home politics. The despatch of a much smaller force, with much less display of preparation, would have satisfied the popular aspirations. What makes us fear the worst is that all the speakers and writers in Japan seem to be rejoicing in the opportunity now given to the country to assert itself in Corea. They all want to terminate any claim to suzerainty on the part of China. Even the Opposition papers "will not stoop to the unpatriotic step of hampering the Cabinet's actions by criticising its Corean policy." The Japanese people seem to be so excited now that it would be almost impossible for the Government to withdraw the troops they have sent without bringing back with them some material conpensation, and this must be taken from China in one way or another.

Enclosure 3 in No 1877.

The
North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, 28TH JUNE, 1894.

THOSE in Japan who watch what is going on have no doubt whatever that only force will now induce the Japanese troops to withdraw from Corea. If China accepts the situation, if she is content to be wiped out of the peninsula, to see the King taken to Tokio, and Corea administered as a dependency of Japan, there will be no war between the two Powers; if China is not prepared to back down entirely, and supports the King of Corea in his demand that the Japanese troops shall withdraw, the breaking out of war between China and Japan is only a question of days, perhaps of hours.

Japan's excuses for her present action are two. Firstly, she opened Corea to the world, and it is therefore her duty and not China's to watch over and assist Corea's faltering and tentative steps along the path of progress and civilisation; and secondly, in defiance of the Treaty of 1885, China sent troops to Corea to put down the *Togakuto* rebellion, and did not give formal notice of her intention to Japan until the troops were actually there. These are good enough pretexts, but that is all they are. The real reason is that the Japanese Government prefers a foreign to a civil war. The discontent of the majority of the House of Representatives was getting serious. Their last Address to the Throne was actually treasonable; the attack on the Government was gradually being extended to the hitherto sacred power which supported the Government, and expressions were used in the Address in reference to the Emperor himself, which, had they been used five years ago would have been punished by death. A foreign war, however, is expected to reunite the people; it is an outlet for the bad blood which has been accumulating of late years in the body politic. Of course, if the war lasts too long, Japan may be relieved of more blood than she has any idea of losing at present.

We know that the Japanese have been formally asked to withdraw from Corea, and it is reported among Chinese merchants here who have correspondents at Seoul and Chemulpo, that the following conditions have been stipulated for by the Japanese Minister to Seoul, Mr. Otori. That Fusan and certain islands, presumably Quelpart and Port Hamilton, be ceded to Japan; that China give up now and for ever all claims to suzerainty over Corea; that an indemnity amounting to $250,000 be paid to Japan by either China or Corea on account of the expenses of the present expedition; that one thousand Japanese soldiers be allowed to remain permanently in Seoul and Chemulpo as a standing contingent to protect Japanese subjects in Corea; and finally that the just demands of the Eastern Sectaries or *Togakuto, i.e.*, the recent insurgents, be granted by the King of Corea. Our readers can judge for themselves whether these or similar demands are likely to have been made by the Japanese Minister, and whether China or Corea is likely to concede them. Meantime we hear that Corea, backed by China, has sent an ultimatum to the General in command of the Japanese forces, General Oshima, requiring him to evacuate Corean territory within ten days. This, too, is only a report.

It is quite certain that there are a great many more than 6,000 Japanese troops already in Corea; and infantry, cavalry, and artillery, including batteries of siege guns, are being sent forward daily, together with large supplies of ammunition, provisions, and stores. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamers *Omi Maru* and *Yamashiro Maru*, which were built to be used, if necessary, as armed cruisers, have received their armament at the Naval Yard at Yokosuka.

One disadvantage the Japanese have been labouring under so far. Corea is joined to Japan by a telegraph cable between Fusan and Tsushima, but the land line is broken between Seoul and Chemulpo and Fusan, and therefore all the telegrams between Corea and Japan have to go by the Chinese land lines, round the head of the Gulf of Pechili, through Tientsin to Shanghai, and thence across to Nagasaki. This, however, will probably be remedied before long, as the Japanese have sent operators and are sending material to Corea, and will very soon reopen a line between Seoul and Fusan. We have already mentioned that besides the large Japanese force at Chemulpo and Seoul—and the capital is now virtually occupied by the Japanese,—there are some 3,000 men at Fusan and Yuensan.

Meanwhile China is sending more troops—some by sea, and some by land across the northern frontier of Corea, but it is to be feared that they, like Li's ships, are not provided as completely as the Japanese are. There is one other point to be mentioned before we leave this subject this morning. The Japanese complain that China landed troops first in Corea and then gave notice to Japan. Now the news that China and Japan were sending troops to Corea reached here on the

same day. It is difficult to settle precisely on what day the first Chinese troops landed in Corea, but it appears to have been after the 6th instant, for the *Haeting*, which left this on the 3rd, met the *Toonan* leaving Tongku with the first batch of troops; and we know from the *Japan Mail* that the decision to send troops was taken in Japan on the 3rd, and everything was ready for the shipment of troops by the 6th. That a collision between the two forces, on land or on sea, can be avoided now, seems impossible.

Dep.

Legation of the United States.



Peking, July 5th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject
Salary account.

One enclosure.

Dep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, my account for salary as chargé d'Affaires ad interim of this Legation from April 1st to June 30th inclusive.

Against this account I have drawn my draft on the Honorable Secretary of State at fifteen days sight.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Cachoeira:

Salary T.M. account.

Secretary of State. AUG 18 1894

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY. To Navy Dept for its information - Ack Aug 18 - aak AUG 17 1894

Aug 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU AUG17 1894

No. 1878.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE. AUG 16 1894 RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 5th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Items concerning Chinese army and navy.

Synopsis

Clipping enclosed stating that Liu Ming-chuan is to command Chinese forces in Corea, and another giving a description of the Peiyang Squadron.

One enclosure.

No 1878.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a clipping from the North China Daily News of the 27th ultimo, being the two editorials in the issue of that date.

The first reports that Liu Ming-chuan, who acquired some reputation as a soldier in the war with France and

previously

previously during the Taiping Rebellion, is to command the Chinese forces in Corea in case of hostilities. Liu Ming-chuan was in command of the island of Formosa with the title of "Military Commissioner", during the Franco-Chinese war, and succeeded in repulsing the attack of Admiral Courbet. After the war, Formosa was erected into a separate province with Liu as governor. In recent years he has been in retirement.

The second article gives an account of the leading vessels of the Peiyang Squadron, which may be of interest in view of threatening hostilities.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Clipping fr. North China Daily

News of June 27th 1894.

Enclosure in No 1878.

The
North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, 27TH JUNE, 1894.

IT was confidently reported yesterday among well-informed Chinese that H.E. Liu Ming-chuan has been desired by the Throne, at the request of Yuan, the Chinese Resident at Seoul, to go to Corea as Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese forces, with full powers to act without being subject to constant telegraphic control. The appointment is a very probable one, for, as we mentioned a year ago in a series of articles headed "China and her Future Leaders," Liu Ming-chuan is regarded at Peking as one of the two chief captains of the armies of China in a contest with any Foreign Power. He gained his spurs fighting under Li Hung-chang against the Taipings, and his comparative success in keeping the French out of Formosa brought him prominently to the front. His appointment is only reported, and the wires to the North are now closed, but the report is not unlikely to turn out true.

THE arrival of the Peiyang squadron at Chemulpo under Admiral Ting raises, doubtless, in the minds of our readers questions as to the efficiency of the Chinese fleet. We therefore publish the following short account of the leading vessels of the squadron and its capabilities.

The ironclads *Ting Yuen* (flagship) and *Chen Yuen* were until recently the most powerful vessels in the East, the British flagship at the present time alone surpassing them. Built at Stettin in 1882, of 7,400 tons displacement and 6,000 horse-power, equal to a speed of 14 knots, with central armoured belt of 14 inches, their armament consists of four 30.5 centimetre (12.1 inch) Krupp guns in twin mounting *en barbette* with 12 inches of armour protection. The steel projectiles for these guns weigh 725 lbs. and the charge of powder is 202 lbs. of slow-burning cocoa; their perforation power at muzzle is through 20½ inches of armour, no light blow indeed. Two 15-centimetre (5.8 inches) Krupp guns are carried, one in the bows and the other at the stern, with 11-inch perforation power. There are three torpedo tubes and numerous machine guns on deck and in the tops. Captain Lew of the *Ting Yuen* and Captain Lin of the *Chen Yuen* are both experienced and trained officers, having served under Admiral Tracey out here in training ships, in the British Navy, and more lately under Captain Lang, than whom no one has worked harder to train or been more fitted to teach and lead. Some 350 men may be the number of each ship's complement.

The *Tsi Yuen*, miscalled a torpedo cruiser, with a speed of barely 15 knots, was likewise built at Stettin in 1883, a poor ship but carrying, however, two powerful 21-centimetre (8.24-in.) Krupp guns forward, with a muzzle perforating power of 16.4 inches; one 15-centimetre Krupp and four torpedo tubes. Captain Fong, her commander, has received naval training abroad; he is a resolute and able man and would do justice to a better ship than he now commands.

The *Chih Yuen* and *Ching Yuen* are Elswick built boats; tonnage 2,300, with an entire protective steel deck, and a speed of 18 knots. These fine vessels carry three 21-centimetre Krupp guns, two forward on a platform, one aft, and two 6-inch Armstrong guns: they have further four torpedo tubes each. Their commanders are respectively Captain Tang and Captain Yeh, both competent men, Captain Yeh especially so.

The *King Yuen* and *Lai Yuen* are belted (9½ inch) cruisers, built at Stettin in the same year as the Elswick boats, 1886; 2,800 tons displacement and with a speed of 16 knots; they are armed with two 21-centimetre Krupp guns *en barbette* forward; two 15-centimetre do, one on either broadside; and four torpedo discharge tubes: their commanders, Captains Lin and Kew, have both had some training in the British Navy.

The *Chao Yung* and *Yang Wei* are the well-known Elswick cruisers of which the French stood so much in awe during their operations off Formosa in 1884. They each carry two 25-ton Armstrong guns and have a speed of about 14 knots; Captain Wong commands the *Chao Yung* and captain Lin the *Yang Wei*. These nine men-of-war represent a force of about 2,300 men.

(OVER)

The officers and men have both received much careful training. The former have nearly all passed through the Foochow or Tientsin Naval School. The training for the men, laid down by Captain Lang, is as complete as can be found anywhere in theory, and in practice conforms to a very efficient standard indeed. All the men pass through the capable hands of Lieut. Bourchier, R.N., who has charge of the recruiting and gunnery departments on shore at Weihaiwei: in torpedo training, both at the shore school and afloat, the able services of Mr. Fleischer, I.G.N., have long been employed, and where he has worked the best results can be looked for.

As gunners the Chinese make excellent marksmen; they are fond of their guns, keep them in good order and handle them well. Three minutes per round is not an unbroken record, when prize firing with the heavy 12-inch Krupp guns; and with the better fittings of the heavier cruisers, the 8-inch and 6-inch guns can be served a round a minute. It is not uncommon to hear unfavourable comparisons drawn between the Chinese and Japanese officers to the detriment of the former; but despite the many disadvantages the Chinese officer has laboured and still labours under, disadvantages arising out of birth, habit, and system, which this is not the time nor place to dilate upon, there are many capable and energetic men amongst the officers of the squadron who will stand by their ships and serve them efficiently when need arises; an emergency, where name and country is at stake, will bring out, we are fully persuaded, much latent and unknown strength in the Chinese naval officer.

C

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack & file.
AUG 17 1894

No 1879.

Ack'd Aug 18.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Legation of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
AUG 16 1894
RECEIVED.

Peking, July 6th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject.

Confirms telegram of 3rd instant.

No 1879.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 6th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of the 3rd instant as follows:

"Korea situation critical

"hostilities imminent

"Chinese Government shows

"conciliatory attitude in

"spite of aggressive action

"of Japan and asks good

"offices of England Russia

to

"to secure peaceful solution"

Mr. O'Conor, Her British Majesty's Minister, asked me to telegraph you requesting that the United States Government take the initiative in uniting the other great powers in a joint protest at Tokyo against the commencement of hostilities by Japan. He said that he was in communication with the Yamên and that he knew such action would be acceptable to China and the other powers. I declined to do so unless the Tungli Yamên requested it. I felt it my duty, however, to advise you of the critical condition of affairs at the date of my telegram

and

and of China's attitude
with reference thereto.

The latest advices that
have reached Peking indicate
that a disposition to resort
to diplomatic methods instead
of violence is showing itself
and that a peaceful solution
of the controversy is probable.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Separate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 16
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 6th, 1894.

— Wm. F. D. Cheshire —

to the

— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing Statement of account for Loss by Exchange for quarter Ending 30th June 1894.

Separate. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 6th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of my account for loss by Exchange for the quarter ending June 30th, 1894.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant
F.D. Sheehan.
Interpreter of Legation.

T.M.

Enclosure:
Statement as above.

Separate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 16 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 6th, 1894.

— Wm. F. D. Cheshire —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing statement of
salary account for quarter
ending June 30th, 1894.

Separate. Our Enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 6th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to Enclose a statement of my Salary account for the quarter ending June 30th, 1894.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

F. D. Sherman.

Interpreter of Legation

Enclosure: T.M.

Statement as above.

Telegram Cipher

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Peking July 8, 1894.

6.50 am

Gresham

Washington

Confirmed 10 July '94 JN

The Viceroy requests the United States to take the initiative urging Powers to unite in request to Japan to withdraw troops from Corea.

Denby

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
aab
AUG 24 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS.
AUG 24 1894
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
C

No 1880.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 27 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 8th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The Corean question

Synopsis

Confirms telegram transmitting Viceroy's request to United States to try to bring about withdrawal of Japanese troops.

No 1880.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 8th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that I received last night from Mr. Read, United States Consul at Tientsin, a cipher telegram as follows:

"Viceroy desires Legation
"telegraph Washington to take
"initiative urging powers
"to unite request Japan
"government to have

Japanese

"Japanese troops withdrawn
"Corea".

In compliance with this request, which I did not feel at liberty to refuse to bring to your attention, I telegraphed you in cipher today as follows:

"The Viceroy Li requests the
"United States to take the
"initiative urging powers to
"unite in request to Japan
"to withdraw troops Corea."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 24 1894

No 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 9th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Forwards Customs Reports

No 1881.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 9th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward, under separate cover, by this mail, duplicate copies of the Customs Medical Reports. These are for the half year ended March 31st, 1891, but they have just been issued by the Customs press.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Omit

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG24 1894

No 1882.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 9th, 1894.

Acknd
27.1894

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Empress' fête

Synopsis

Diplomatic Corps will probably be asked to participate in the celebrations in a befitting manner.

№ 1882.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 9th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my despatch № 1865, of the 12th ultimo, I intimated that as no advances had been made to the foreign representatives as to participation in the Empress' birthday festivities, the presents and congratulatory letters sent to her would probably be sent through the Chinese representatives

abroad

abroad.

In the light of more recent information, I have now the honor to say that the foreign representatives will probably be recognized on that occasion in a dignified and befitting manner. Though no official communication has been made on the subject, beyond the notification from the Yamên enclosed in despatch No 1812, of the 20th February, I am reliably informed that arrangements are being made for the participation of the Diplomatic Body in the ceremonies and celebrations in honor of the Empress, and that the details of these arrangements have

been

been left to the viceroy Li Hung-chang, who will then be in Peking, and to Prince Ching, Chief Minister of Foreign Affairs.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Aug 25, 1894
Aug. 25, 1894

2d ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Legation at Mexico, for communication to Señor Mariscal
So ack. AUG 24 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 24 1894

No 1883.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 9th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Mexican bimetallic conference.

Synopsis

China accepts Mexico's invitation to send delegates thereto.

One enclosure.

No 1883.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 9th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In explanation of the note from the Yamên enclosed herewith, I have the honor to state that all registered mail coming through the United States post-office at Shanghai, and addressed to Peking addresses, is sent under cover to this Legation for delivery. In the mail which reached this

this city on June 30th was a registered letter addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and this letter I sent to the Tsungli Yamên with my card.

This letter contained, apparently, an official invitation from the Mexican Government to China to participate in a bi-metallic conference at Mexico during the coming winter. The Yamên has seen fit to reply to this invitation through this Legation and requests that this reply be forwarded to you.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:
The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby, July 6th, 1894.

Enclosure in No 1883.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

July 6th, 1894.

Monsieur le Chargé d'Affaires:

A few days ago we had the honor to receive a card from you transmitting a registered foreign letter, which the Yamên had translated into Chinese.

It relates to the holding of a conference at the capital of Mexico, in the coming winter, for the purpose of considering the question of the decline in the value of silver and the advance in the value of gold which has proved detrimental to general interests. All nations are invited to send delegates to participate in the deliberations of said conference, and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, by direction of the President of Mexico, addresses

1894.

addresses the Yamên to ascertain whether or not China will be represented there.

With regard to this matter we may say that, in May last, we received a despatch from Mr. Yang, Chinese Minister at Washington conveying an invitation from Mexico to send delegates to the proposed silver conference. The Yamên, on the 6th of June last, instructed Mr. Yang to send delegates to represent China at the said conference, and we have the honor to request you to make this action known to the Honorable Secretary of State.

Cards of Ministers with compliments.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
JUL 18 1894

File

Legation of the United States in China,

Washington, July 10, 1894.

The Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Sir:-

I have the honor to inform you that in accordance with your letter of instructions of the 6th instant, I have arrived in Washington and will hold myself subject to the further order of the Department.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Charles Denby

No 1884.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 12th, 1894.

— Wm. Charles Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State. —

— Subject —

Enclosing Statement of Repairs Account for quarter ended 30th of June 1894.

No 1884. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 12th, 1894.

To the Honorable,

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose

1884. a statement of the Repairs Account of this Legation for the quarter ended June 30th, 1894.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant.

Chas. Denby Jr.

T. M. — Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Statement as above

No 1884. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 12th, 1894.

To the Honorable,

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose

1884. a statement of the Repairs Account of this Legation for the quarter ended June 30th, 1894.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant.

Chas. Denby Jr.

T. M. Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Statement as above

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. by Number and File.
AUG 24 1894

COPIED FOR CONGRESS
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 24 1894

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED

No 1885.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 13th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Japan and China in Corea.

Synopsis

Acknowledges receipt of Department's telegram of the 10th instant with reference to representations made at Tokio. Condition of affairs unchanged. Japanese Chargé's audience with the Emperor. Attitude of Yamên.

No 1885.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 13th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your cipher telegram of the 10th instant, as follows:

"Your telegram of the 8th.
"received. On the 7th instant,
"I sent by cable the
"following instruction to
"our Minister to Japan:
"The Government of the
United

"United States has heard
"with sincere regret that
"although the insurrection
"has been suppressed and
"peace prevails in Korea,
"Japan refuses to withdraw
"her troops and demands
"that radical changes be
"made in the domestic
"administration of Korea.
"This demand is the more
"remarkable in view of
"the fact that China favors
"the simultaneous withdrawal
"of both the Japanese and
"Chinese troops. Cherishing
"sincere friendship for
"both Japan and Korea,
"the United States indulges

the

"the hope that Korean
"independence and
"sovereignty will be respected.
"You are instructed to say
"to the Government at
"Tokio that the President
"will be painfully
"disappointed should Japan
"visit upon her feeble and
"defenceless neighbor the horror
"of an unjust war".

I have communicated to the Viceroy Li the substance of this telegram.

The condition of affairs between the three kingdoms seems practically unchanged. The Japanese are reported to have withdrawn their merchant

steamers

steamers from the northern lines, the inference being that they are to be used for transporting troops and supplies. An indication, however, of a more friendly attitude on the part of Japan is the fact that the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires at Peking was yesterday received in audience by the Emperor of China, for the purpose of thanking His Majesty for his congratulations to the Emperor of Japan, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his marriage.

The Viceroy Li is reported to have applied to the Emperor for authority to raise a large loan for military purposes.

I am informed, however, from reliable Chinese sources that the chief anxiety of both the Tsungli Yamên and the Viceroy in this whole matter is to shift all responsibility upon the other.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 24 1894

No 1886.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 16th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Forwards Customs Returns of Trade.

No 1886.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 16th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to forward by this mail, under separate cover, duplicate copies of the Customs Returns of Trade and Trade Reports for the year 1893.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

No 1887.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 16th, 1894.

—Wm Charles Denby Jr.—

to the

—Secretary of State—

—Subject—

Enclosing statement of account for Contingent Expenses for the quarter ended June 30th 1894.

T. M.

No 1887. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 16th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of the Contingent Expenses Account of this Legation for the quarter ended 30th June, 1894.

1887.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure: Statement as above.

No 1888.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 16th, 1894.

— Wm. Charles Denby Jr. —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of Rent account for the quarter ending 30th June 1894.

T. M.

1/188

No 1888. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 16th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to
Enclose duplicate Statement of
the Rent Account of this Legation
for the quarter Ended 30th June
1894,

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure: Duplicate Statement as above.

1888

File

OCT 12 1894

No 1889.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 16th, 1894.

— Wm. Charles Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate returns of passports issued during quarter ended 30th June 1894.

No 1889. One enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 16th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter A Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to

89. Enclose duplicate returns of passports issued at this Legation during the quarter ended June 30th, 1894.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your Obedient Servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure: Duplicate statement as above.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 24 1894

Requisition Aug. 24/94
Sent Aug 25, 1894

No 1890.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, July 17th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1894
RECEIVED

— Wm. Charles Denby Jr. —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Indent for supply of passport forms.

No 1890.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 17th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to request the Department to be good enough to send this Legation a supply of passport forms.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 24 1894

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Secy of Navy for his information and such instructions to naval Commanders as may be proper.
AUG 24 1894

Aug 25. '94

No. 1891.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 17th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Acpt. 30 Aug. '94. M

Subject

Protection of foreigners at Canton.

Synopsis

Points out the obligation on the United States to participate therein.

No 1891.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 17th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

My attention has been repeatedly called of late, by the United States consul and others, to the desirability of stationing an American man-of-war at Canton.

This city is the most unruly in China and the one in which anti-foreign outbreaks are most easily instigated.

It

It has an immense population, lemming in the little foreign community in such a way as to make resistance to a determined assault hopeless and flight impossible. The only effectual resource is a foreign gunboat anchored so as to be a deterring menace to approaching mobs and to afford easy access to the foreign residents in case of danger.

The obligation on the United States to take its share in the protection of Canton seems indisputable. It has been emphasized by the recent riot in which Americans were the only victims.

Not

Not only are there many of
our fellow citizens within
the city, but they are found
in widely separated establishments
in the surrounding country.
There are constantly appealing
to our consul for the rectification
of wrongs, for protection from
threatened danger, and for
support in proposed undertakings.
It is unquestionable that the
position of a consul in
negotiations is strengthened
by the presence of a ship of his
nationality in harbor. The
Chinese high officials are,
of course, too well informed
to imagine that such vessel
is there for the purpose of
arbitarily

arbitrarily exerting force or
that the consul could, at will,
turn her guns upon the
city. Her presence, however,
is an evidence that he is
supported by his government
and that, in case of necessity,
protection can easily be
afforded to him and his
fellow nationals.

With Chinese mobs the effect
is greater. They have a
profound and wholesome fear
of foreign guns. The presence of
an American ship at Canton
would be an effectual guarantee
of the safety of the foreign
settlement —— a more effectual
guarantee than a regiment

of

of native soldiery.

It is true that Canton is frequently protected by British ships. There, however, have manifold duties to perform and are limited to intermittent visits. Could an arrangement be made by which American ships could so cooperate as to relieve the English vessels when desired, the settlement need never be left unguarded.

I consider this matter of such importance as to justify its reference to you.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

C

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 28 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 1892.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 17th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ack'd 13th Sept. '94 m

Subject

Manufacturing in Shanghai.

Synopsis

Development of modern manufacturing industry in Shanghai; the causes and the future of this movement.

No 1892.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 17th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The great diminution in recent years in the gold value of silver has had a marked effect in the business of the East. The revolution which this depreciation is effecting, seen now to be inevitable, was, strange to say, almost unforeseen. China was, for many decades, regarded as

as a field for commerce only. Here few individuals who were bold enough to suggest that Shanghai and other cities of this empire might become manufacturing centers were met with incredulity. To Japan it was left to discover that cheap labor and cheap silver formed a combination overwhelmingly favorable to manufacturing success.

The importance of this discovery has now, however, been grasped in China, though by natives, not by foreigners, has it been first availed of. It was but natural that Chinese merchants, finding their silver yearly buying

buying less of foreign cotton and other manufactured goods. — while retaining its full purchasing power for native products, should have resolved upon the building of factories here for the production of articles hitherto exclusively imported. At first these experiments were unsuccessful, but there is now every indication that this movement will result in a revolution in the business of this country if not even develop into a menace to foreign manufacturers in their own markets.

China seems, to one familiar with the character of her people,

to

to present unexcelled facilities
for all kinds of factory work.
The supply of labor is
inexhaustible and this labor
is in many respects superior
to any in the world. The
Chinaman learns readily the
task to which he is directed.
He is the perfection of sobriety
and industry, ready to work
for twelve or fourteen hours
a day, ignorant of holidays
and having no Sundays to
interrupt his incessant toil.
The wages he receives, ample
for him, would be utterly
inadequate for the humblest
laborer in America. At thirty
or forty Mexican cents per day

he

he is able to feed and clothe himself and his family.

It is natural that in the production of cotton goods the manufacturing movement should first have taken place. China not only produces the raw material but has at her factory doors an immense and almost undeveloped market. There exist now in Shanghai two large cotton factories — the Chinese Cotton Cloth Mill Company, with an annual output of 14.000 bales, and the Chinese Spinning Company, with an output of 6000 lbs of cotton yarn per day. These companies operate under

under the most favorable conditions. Their shareholders comprise some of the highest officials in the empire. Their products are free from taxation in Shanghai and vicinity and are exempt from coast-trade duty if shipped to other ports. The only difficulty to be foreseen in their way is the unreliability of Chinese management, an unreliability which is particularly marked in all establishments in this country which are under official auspices. With intelligent foreign control and conducted on sound mercantile principles there could be no doubt of their success to an unbounded

degree

degree. They are protected from foreign rivalry by the prohibition to foreigners to engage in manufacturing enterprises in this country, or even to import machinery unless consigned to official establishments. The removal of this prohibition would open to foreign capital an immense and profitable field.

Besides these, there are several cotton ginning mills at Shanghai and a great variety of other manufacturing establishments. The Shanghai Paper Mill can produce about sixty tons of paper monthly, though owing to Japanese

competition

competition it has never done so. There are several factories for the production of silk filatures, there are hide and wool presses, powder mills, arsenals and arms factories, ship building yards, factories of soap, ice, aerated waters and dozens of minor products. All these establishments are of comparatively recent origin and indicate sufficiently a tendency destined to the greatest importance.

To one accustomed to regard China as the synonym of sloth and inactivity the approach to Shanghai is a striking revelation. Passing the formidable forts

forts at Woosung, where Krupp and Armstrong guns frown on the passing ships through trim-white battlements, the traveller encounters on every side indications of the approach to a great and busy city. The passing ships bear the flags of all nations — Chinese, Japanese, English, French, Austrian and German predominate; that of the United States is seldom seen unless upon some oil or lumber laden barque. Nearing Shanghai, the voyager's eye is struck by beautiful public gardens lining the water's edge, with block after block of handsome

business

business houses, worthy of any city in the woreld, forming the back ground. Miles away on either bank stretch wharfs and warehouses and factories. One cannot but draw the conclusion that whatever be the future of the business of Shanghai it is not destined to decrease. Every year this city becomes more and more the business center of the East. Its trade in foreign ships only was in 1892 the enormous total of nearly sixty five million dollars in gold.

Of course Shanghai is not typical of China, though perhaps typical of China's possibilities.

Scarcely

Scarcely beyond the glare of
the electric light of the busy
city or scarcely out of
hearing of the hum of its
steam driven wheels, the
toiling cooley laboriously
drags his boat along the
narrow water ways leading
to the interior. Further north
on the plains of Shantung
the cargo-laden wheelbarrow
is painfully pushed along
the dusty roads with a huge
sail set to every favoring
breeze. Away in the provinces of
the interior even the fame of
Shanghai is unknown and
foreign is the synonym of evil.
While throughout the length

and

and breadth of the land, human labor is the cheapest of all labor and suffering the least regarded, the most universal of the attributes of man.

It is certain, however, that when that powerful factor in civilization, the railroad, fulfills its appointed task in China, many cities like Shanghai will be produced, perhaps on a smaller scale, in other places, centers of manufacturing industry and of beneficent progress.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Separate.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AUG 24 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 20th, 1894.

— Wm. F. D. Rhodes —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for Loss by Exchange for the quarter Ended 30th June 1894.

Separate. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 20th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to Enclose duplicate Statement of my account for Loss by Exchange for the quarter Ended 30th June 1894.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

F.D. Cheshire.

Interpreter of Legation

T.M.

Enclosure: Duplicate Statement as above.

Separate

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 20th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JUL 1894
RECEIVED

—Hon. F. D. Gresham—
to the
—Secretary of State.—

—Subject.—
Enclosing duplicate statement
of salary account for quarter
ended 30th June 1894.

Separate One enclosure.

Legation of the United States

Peking, July 20th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham,

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose duplicate statement of my account for salary for the quarter ended June 30th, 1894.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

T. M.

F. D. Cheshire.

Interpreter of Legation

Enclosure: duplicate statement as above.

D46

Sep.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 11 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 23rd, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Encloses exchange account

One enclosure.

5

Dep.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 23rd, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

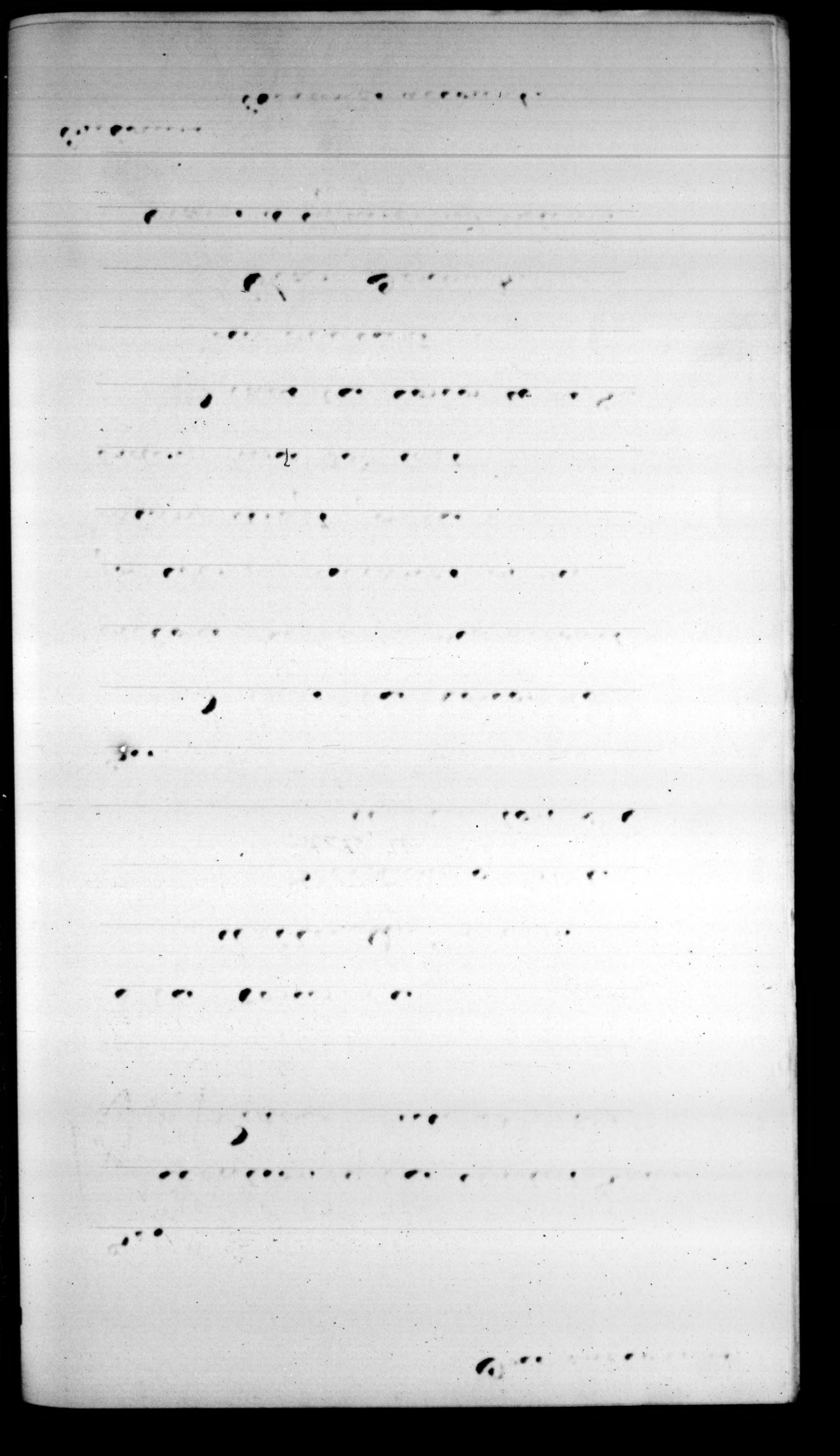
Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, my account for bors by exchange on my salary draft, for the quarter ending June 30th last.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

T. M. Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d' Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:
Exchange account.



TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Await by Dec
July 26.
Acted by mail
July 30
To Japan
July 30

COPIED FOR CONGRESS

From Pekin

July 24, 1894.

Received 9.04 A.M.

GRESHAM,

JUL 28 1894

Washington.

Have received a telegram from the United States Minister at Japan with reference to taking Japanese citizens under the protection of the United States in case of war. Chinese Government has given consent and asks the United States to protect Chinese in Japan. A reply is requested.

Denby.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Sent by tel July 26.
Actd by mail July 30
To Japan July 30

COPIED FOR CONGRESS

From Pekin

July 24, 1894.

Received 9.04 A.M.

GRESHAM,

JUL 28 1894

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Have received a telegram from the United States Minister at Japan with reference to taking Japanese citizens under the protection of the United States in case of war. Chinese Government has given consent and asks the United States to protect Chinese in Japan. A reply is requested.

Denby.

Rec'd Sept. 14.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 11 1894
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 11 1894

No. 1893.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 24th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
SEP 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Protection of Japanese in China

Synopsis

Confirms telegram from American Minister Tokyo and telegram from this Legation to Department with reference to placing Japanese under protection of United States in case of war. Movement of Chinese troops. Attitude of China.

№ 1893.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 24th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have received from Mr. Edwin Dun, United States Minister at Tokyo, a telegram, dated the 19th instant, as follows:

"You will be requested to
"take under the protection
"of the United States Japanese
"in China. Our government
"will consent if Chinese
"government will consent."

This

This telegram reached me on the 20th instant and on the 21st, in a personal interview with the ministers of the Tsungli Yamên, I asked them if China would consent, in case war were declared, to the United States assuming the protection of the subjects of Japan in this country. They gladly answered in the affirmative, seeming pleased that our government had been chosen for this service.

They then stated that they had proposed calling on me to ask this Legation to telegraph the Secretary of State, requesting the United States to assume protection

protection of the subjects of China in Japan, in case of hostilities. They stated that this matter had been the subject of correspondence between the Yamên and the Chinese Minister at Tokyo, and that their request came at his suggestion. They spoke of the long friendship of the United States for China and seemed to place the greatest confidence in our government.

Telegraphic communications between China and abroad being then broken on account of floods both north and south of Tientsin, the Yamên's request could not be at once laid before

before you. The lines are today, for the first time, in working order again and I telegraphed you this morning as follows:

"Have received a telegram
"from the United States
"Minister at Japan with
"reference to taking Japanese
"in China under the protection
"of the United States in case
"of war. Chinese government
"has given consent and asks
"the United States to protect
"Chinese in Japan - A reply
"is requested."

From telegrams shown me by the Japanese Chargé, I am inclined to believe that this request may have reached you through

through another channel —
perhaps from the Viceroy Li
through the Chinese Minister
at Washington. The Ministers
of the Yamên do not always
seem accurately informed of
the Viceroy's steps. Their request
to me was, however, a definite
one from the Chinese government
as represented by the Tsungli
Yamên, and, at the risk of
repetition, I felt constrained
to forward it.

As far as can be judged
at Peking, the probability of
war seems great. The Japanese
Chargé d'Affaires, though still
at his post, has broken off
all negotiations with the Yamên.

The

The Chinese Ministers, while strongly hoping for peace, seemed prepared for the alternative. On the 20th instant, four steamers of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company left Taku for Korea, bearing, it is said, five thousand soldiers, and on the 22nd ten thousand more are said to have embarked.

The expense to China and the losses to her commerce have already been great. It is certain, however, that China will never accede to any proposition which places Korea under Japanese control. To yield preeminence in the peninsula would

would be to invite future interference in the adjoining provinces of Manchuria. The government feels that, whatever the cost, resistance to aggression had better be made at the outset. From Japan less than from any power in the world is this Empire disposed to accept dictation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

The Chinese Ministers, while strongly hoping for peace, seemed prepared for the alternative. On the 20th instant, four steamers of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company left Taku for Korea, bearing, it is said, five thousand soldiers, and on the 22nd ten thousand more are said to have embarked.

The expense to China and the losses to her commerce have already been great. It is certain, however, that China will never accede to any proposition which places Korea under Japanese control. To yield preeminence in the peninsula

would

would be to invite future interference in the adjoining provinces of Manchuria. The government feels that, whatever the cost, resistance to aggression had better be made at the outset. From Japan less than from any power in the world is this Empire disposed to accept dictation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

No 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 11 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 26th, 1894.

— Wm. Charles Denby Jr. —
to the
— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing Statement of account for Loss by Exchange for quarter Ended 30th June 1894.

No 1894. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 26th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham.
Secretary of State.
Washington. D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose
1894. a statement of my account for Loss by Exchange
for the quarter Ended 30th June 1894.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires
ad interim.

T. M.

Enclosure: Statement as above.

No 1895.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 11 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 27th, 1894.

— Wm. Charles Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State —

— Subject. —

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for repairs for the quarter ending 30th September 1894.

No 1895. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 27th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to —

1895. Enclose duplicate statement of my account for repairs to this legation premises for the quarter Ended 30th June 1894.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

T. M.

Enclosure: Duplicate Statement as above.

No 1896.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 27th, 1894.

— Wm Beaulac Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State. —

— Subject —

Enclosing duplicate statement of Contingent Expenses Account for the quarter Ended 30th June 1894.

No 1896. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 27th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose
1896. duplicate statement of my account
for Contingent Expenses for the quarter
Ended 30th June 1894.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

T.M.

Enclosure: Duplicate Statement as above.

SEP 11 1894

No 1897. Recd Sept 14

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 27th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Protection of Japanese subjects

Synopsis

Arrangements made, in anticipation of hostilities, for the protection by the officials of the United States of the interests of the subjects of Japan residing in Chinese territory.

One enclosure.

No 1897.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 27th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires at Peking has made all his arrangements for placing under the protection of the United States the interests of the subjects of Japan, in China, immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities between these two countries.

In

In that event, all Japanese residing or travelling in the interior are to be recalled to the treaty ports. The Japanese consuls and all the members of the legation are to be withdrawn and the care of the legation and consulates and the protection of Japanese subjects are to be left to the officials of the United States.

In view of the fact that the assistance of our consuls will be more in demand by Japanese immediately upon the declaration of war than later, and in view of the fact that it would be difficult and expensive to give them

proper

proper instructions by telegraph
at the last moment, I have
considered it advisable to
notify them by circular, in
advance, that our government
has undertaken, in case of
war, to protect the subjects
of Japan in Chinese territory.
A copy of this circular was
mailed yesterday to each of
the consuls of the United
States in this country, and
I have the honor to enclose
a copy herewith. It will now
only be necessary to advise
them by telegram of a
declaration of war. I have
made an arrangement for
the transmission of these

telegrams

1/1897

telegrams, should they become necessary, through the Consulate General at the least expence.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Circular to consuls July 26-1894.

Enclosure in No 1897.

Confidential

Legation of the United States
Peking, July 26th, 1894.

Esquire
United States Consul,

Sir:

At the request of Japan and with the consent of China, the United States Government has agreed, in event of war between those two powers, to take under its protection all Japanese subjects residing in Chinese territory.

Under these circumstances it will be your duty, on receipt of telegraphic advice from this Legation that hostilities have begun, to give every proper assistance, consistent with the functions with which you are charged and the discharge of your own duties, to the subjects of Japan within your jurisdiction.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant

(S'g'd) Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Dip

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 11 1894

Aug'd Sept. 12.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 11 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS

C

No 1898.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 27th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The viceroy Li and the Corean troubles.

Synopsis

The Emperor has appointed two commissioners to investigate the viceroy's conduct of Corean affairs. The Emperor favors war.

No 1898.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 27th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Emperor has nominated two commissioners to investigate and report upon the Viceroy Li's conduct of the Corean business. These commissioners are Weng Tung-ho, President of the Board of Revenue, and Li Hung-tsao, President of the Board of Rites.

2

It seems that much dissatisfaction exists at Court, largely fomented by the Viceroy's enemies, with the present condition of Corean affairs and China's position therein. One of the above commissioners is the Viceroy's personal enemy. The two grounds of this dissatisfaction are firstly that the Viceroy should have allowed the Japanese to secure such a position at Seoul, where, it seems, they completely command the city. The second ground is that he appealed to Russia for mediation.

It is not a favorable omen for China to see, in the face

of a threatened war, intrigues against her ablest statesman, the only man who is able to conduct her safely in a crisis.

The Emperor is said to be eager for war. The conservative element of Chinese statesmanship shares in this sentiment. Defeat at Japan's hands they regard as a less humiliation than submission to her aggression.

They realize, also, that to yield now would involve far reaching, perhaps disastrous, consequences.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

186

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Arksfld
SEP 11 1894
SEP 11 1894

No 1899.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 28th, 1894.

Acpt'd Sept. 12.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Sinking of the "Kowshing"

Synopsis

The s.s. "Kowshing" flying British flag fired on by Japanese men-of-war near Chemulpo and sunk with 1500 Chinese troops on board.

No. 1899.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 28th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the Tsungli Yamên received yesterday afternoon a telegram from Corea, announcing that the ship "Kowshing", having on board 1500 Chinese troops, had been fired upon by Japanese men-of-war, near A San (or Ya San) on the coast of Corea, some miles south

of

of Chemulpo, and that she had gone down, only eleven lives being saved. Amongst the drowned was Baron von Hanneken, a German military officer who had been many years in the Viceroy's service as military instructor.

The ship "Kowshing" was the property of the Indo China Steam Navigation Company and flew the English flag. She was chartered, on or about the 16th instant, by the Chinese Government to be used as a despatch boat. The agreement between the company and the Chinese Government was that she should be sailed under the

the British flag as long as
it should be safe to do so;
if captured the purchase
money already agreed upon
was to be paid to Messrs
Jardine Matheson and Co,
Agents. On a formal declaration
of war it was agreed that the
vessel should run into the
nearest Chinese port and
hoist the Chinese flag. She
was under the English flag
when fired on yesterday.

This not known what
incidents preceded this act
of violence on the part of the
Japanese nor how it is regarded
by the British authorities. The
effect can hardly be other

than

than an immediate declaration of war between China and Japan. At this moment the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires is still in Peking and has no orders to withdraw.

The Chinese Telegraph Administration refuses to transmit cipher telegrams unless sealed by the Tsungli Yamên.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Legation of the United States
Peking, July 29, 1894.

T. W.

NS-ATLANTIC

CABLEGRAM.

ST. N. W., WASH'N, D. C.

ALBERT B. CHANDLER,
President and General Manager.

JOHN O. STEVENS,
Secretary.

Confmd Aug. 1. 1894

Words, 18

AUG 1 1894

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.
IN CONNECTION WITH THE
COMMERCIAL
(MACKAY-BENNETT)
CABLES

Washn D.C. 29 July 1894

llowing CABLEGRAM received, "Via Commercial Cables," (subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back hereof, which are ratified and agreed to.

king.

Gresham. Washn

Japan announces outbreak of hostilities requests instructions American minister Tokyo assume protection. Chinese

Denby

y respecting this Message can be attended to without the production of this paper. *Repetitions of doubtful words sho through the Company's offices, and not by DIRECT application to the sender.*

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Aksell
SEP 13 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
COPIES 1894
SENT FOR CONGRESS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED

No. 1900.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 30th, 1894.

Rec'd. Sept. 14.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

American protection of Chinese in Japan.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of the 28th instant and encloses copy of Yamên's despatch and reply.

No 1900.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Aksell
SEP 13 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
COPIED 1894
SENT FOR CONGRESS.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 30th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED

Answ. Sept. 14.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

American protection of Chinese in Japan.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of the 28th instant and encloses copy of Yamên's despatch and reply.

Two enclosures.

No. 1900.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 30th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

On the 28th instant, the Tungli Yamên, in an official despatch of which I enclose a copy herewith, advised me that Japan had now commenced hostilities. They asked me to convey this information to you and to request you to telegraph to the United States Minister at Tokyo, their intention being

1/1900

to

to have him at once take under his protection the subjects of China in Japan.

On the same day I telegraphed you as follows:

"Yamên announces outbreak
"of hostilities requests
"instructions American
"Minister Tokyo assume
"protection Chinese".

The Chinese Telegraph Administration refusing cipher telegrams, unless sealed by the Yamên — to secure which involves much loss of time — I preferred to forward the message to you in open text.

On the 29th instant, I sent a reply to the Yamên, of which

a

2/1900

a copy is enclosed, informing them that I had complied with their request.

The language of the Yamen, though guarded, viz. "the "Japanese have now commenced "hostilities and it is difficult "to say what will be the "condition of affairs", is practically a recognition of a state of war. The Chargé d'Affaires of Japan, however, has not been asked to withdraw by China nor has he been recalled by his own government. For six days he has been without instructions from Tokyo and the only inference is that telegrams directed to him are retained.

I

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. The Tungli Yamên to Mr. Denby

No 19, July 28th, 1894.

2. Mr. Denby to the Tungli

Yamên, No. 22, July 29th, 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No 1900.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No 19. July 28th 1894.

Upon the 21st instant, the Chargé d'affaires of the United States called on the Yamên and stated that he had been instructed by telegram, that should war break out between China and Japan over the troubles in Corea, the Japanese Government would request the United States to protect Japanese resident in China, in case the Government of China would consent thereto.

The Yamên replied that Mr. Wang, Chinese Minister at Tokyo, had come to an understanding with the United States Minister that, in event of war, the United States would be asked to give protection to the Chinese resident in Japan, and they supposed that this proposal had already been

submitted

submitted to the Honorable Secretary of State.

The Japanese have now commenced hostilities and it is difficult to say what will be the condition of affairs. There are large numbers of Chinese resident in Japan. Many reside at the treaty ports and at Tokyo and vicinity, where they have their families, money and property and where they are engaged in business. The Government of the United States has kindly undertaken to take them under its protection, as provided by international law. For this the Prince and Ministers are sincerely grateful.

In sending this communication for the information of the Chargé d'affaires of the United States, the Prince and Ministers would beg him to be good enough to advise the Honorable Secretary

of

of State requesting him to
issue telegraphic instructions
to the Minister of the United
States at Tokyo.

Addressed to
Charles Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires of the
United States.

Enclosure 2 in No 1900.

Mr. Denby to the Foreign Office.

No 22. July 29th 1894.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of yesterday in which you refer to our interview of the 21st instant, and to the protection by the United States of the citizens of China and Japan in each other's territory in case of war.

You state that "the Japanese "have now commenced hostilities "and it is difficult to say what "will be the condition of affairs"; that there are many Chinese in Japan, and that, as the United States has agreed to take them under its protection, you request that the Honorable Secretary of State be asked to forward to the

United

United States Minister at Tokyo.
telegraphic instructions.

In reply, I have the honor to state that I sent yesterday to the Honorable Secretary of State a telegram in accordance with your request.

I avail etc, etc,,

(Sig'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 18 1894
3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 13 1894
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED.

No 1901. Received Sept. 14

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 30th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

American protection of Japanese subjects in China

Synopsis

Confirms Department's telegraphic instruction of 27th instant.

№ 1901.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 30th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your cipher telegram of the 27th instant, as follows:

"China acceding you may
"act as custodian Japanese
"Legation. and afford friendly
"offices for protection Japanese
"subjects in China either
"directly or through consuls
"acting under your instructions

but

"but you will not represent
"Japan diplomatically".

This telegram reached me at 2.30, p. m., on the 29th instant.

No request has as yet been made for this Legation to exert its friendly offices on behalf of the Japanese, but it would seem that the Japanese representative's departure could not be long delayed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Filed under U.S. Legation to China 6 Pk

1 P

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

DEPT OF STATE
JUL 31 1894
CHIEF CLERK.

Secretary of State
AUG

From Hotel Cadillac, Detroit Mich

July 31, 189X

Received 11.50 P.M.

Hon. W. Q. Gresham,

Dept State.

Will leave for China

whenever directed,

Denby

File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 12 1894

No 1902.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 31st, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Recognition of Mr. Tenney and
Mr. Donnelly

Synopsis

Chinese Government recognizes
Mr. Tenney, appointed Vice Consul
at Tientsin, and Mr. Donnelly,
appointed Consular Agent thereof.

№ 1902.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches № 887, of the 7th June, enclosing Mr. Tenney's commission as United States Vice Consul, Tientsin, and № 888, of the 8th June, enclosing Mr. Donnelly's commission as Consular Agent of the United States at Chefoo.

Here officials have been recognized

recognized by the Chinese
Government and they have been
notified thereof in the usual
way.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

No 1903.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 31st, 1894.

—Wm. Charles Denby Jr.—
to the
—Secretary of State.—

—Subject—

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for loss by Exchange for the quarter ended 30th June 1894.

No 1903. Our Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q Gresham.
Secretary of State.
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to hand
1903. you Enclosed, duplicate statement
of my account for loss by Exchange
for the quarter ended 30th June 1894.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

T. M.

Enclosure:
Duplicate Statement as above.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS

No. 1904.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 31st, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Acknl. 14th Sept. '94. M

Subject

Protection of Japanese in China

Synopsis

Encloses copy of instructions to United States consuls

One enclosure.

No 1904.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, July 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Much misapprehension seeming to exist in the minds of some of the United States consuls in China as to the scope of their duties as to the protection of Japanese subjects in China, in case of war, and application having been made to me for further instructions on the subject, I have considered it

desirable

desirable to inform them, somewhat more in detail than was done in my circular of the 26th instant, of what would be expected of them. I enclose, herewith, a copy of a circular which I have this day mailed to the consuls at the various ports.

1/1904

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Consular circular July 31st 1894.

Confidential — Enclosure in 1904

Legation of the United States-
Peking, July 31st, 1894-

Esquire
United States Consul,

Sir:

His Legation having been requested to state more specifically what will be the duties of the United States Consuls as to the protection of Japanese, in case of war, I have the honor to give you further instructions as follows. In such an event, on receipt of notice from this Legation, you will exert your good offices for the protection of Japanese subjects in your vicinity, such action on your part to be as Consul of the United States and in no respect as representing Japan, and to be strictly confined to such acts as are proper for a consul of a power friendly to and at peace with China. You may, if requested, become custodian of the Japanese Consulate and take charge of the archives. It will not, however, be proper to raise the American flag on such buildings. It will not be necessary to make any official announcement of your attitude towards the citizens of Japan. Such notice will be given through the proper authorities at Peking. Your duties will be confined to the protection of Japanese subjects only; you will not be charged with any Japanese consular functions or authority.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant

(S'g'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

From Peking, August 1, 1894

Received August 2, 1894.

AUG 4 1894

Gresham,

Washington.

Confd. Aug. 4/94

War is declared. Japanese Charge d' Affaires left Peking to-day. Has placed interests (of) Japanese subjects in charge of legation of the United States.

Outbreak feared Tien Tsin. Request war vessel.

Denby.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack'd & file
SEP 13 1894

Ack'd Sept 14

SEP 18 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 1905.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 2nd, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Japanese interests under American protection.

Synopsis

Japanese Chargé places Japanese interests in charge of this Legation. Copies of his request and this Legation's reply, and of despatch to Yamen and telegram to the Department enclosed.

Four enclosures.

No 1905.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 2nd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report to you that, at the request of the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires, I took charge, yesterday at noon, of the Legation of Japan and of the interests of the subjects of Japan in China.

Enclosed, herewith, are copies of his official request to me,

1/
705

of

2/1905 of my reply, and of the despatch which I addressed

3/1905 to the Yamen, notifying the Prince and Ministers of this action.

I telegraphed promptly to the United States consuls, who had been notified by circular to expect such an announcement, that Japanese interests had been placed under American protection,

4/1905 and I sent you a cipher telegram which I confirm in enclosure No 4, herewith.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

Enclosures:

1. Mr. Komura to Mr. Denby
   Aug. 1st 1894.
2. Mr. Denby to Mr. Komura
   Aug. 1st 1894.
3. Mr. Denby to the Tsungli
   Yamên, Aug. 1st 1894.
4. Mr. Denby to Mr. Gresham,
   telegram Aug. 1st 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1905

Legation of Japan.
Peking, August 1st, 1894.

C. Denby Jr. Esqr
Chargé d'Affaires of the
United States.

Sir:

In view of my departure from Peking this afternoon with all the members of this Legation, I have the honor to request that you will at once take charge of Japanese interests in China, in accordance with the arrangement made between our respective Governments

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew etc. etc. etc.

(Sig'd) J. Komura
H. I. J. M's Chargé d'Affaires

Enclosure 2 in No 1905

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 1st, 1894.

J. Komura, Esq:
H. I. J. M's Chargé d'affaires

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your official letter of this date stating that, in view of your departure from Peking, you request me atonce to take charge of Japanese interests in China, in accordance with the arrangements made between our respective governments.

I have the honor to state in reply that, acting under the orders of the Honorable Secretary of State, I hasten to accede to your request. I will, atonce, advise by telegraph the consuls of the United States in China and the Honorable Secretary of State

at

at Washington, that you have this day committed to this Legation the interests of the subjects of Japan in China.

This information will also be at once communicated by me to the Chinese Government.

I avail myself etc. etc. etc.

(Sgd) Chas. Denby Jr
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure 3 in No 1905

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 1st, 1894.

Your Highness
and Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to state that the Chargé d'Affaires of Japan at this capital has today, in view of the state of hostilities which unfortunately exists between your two countries, requested this Legation to take under the protection of the United States all the subjects of Japan residing in Chinese territory.

Acting under the authority of the Honorable Secretary of State, and with the assurance hitherto given me by Your Highness and Your Excellencies that the Government of China would consent thereto, I have acceded to this request, and it now becomes my duty to advise you

you that, from this date until further notice, this Legation, and the Consuls of the United States at the treaty ports, acting under its instructions, will exert their friendly offices for the protection of Japanese subjects residing in Chinese territory.

In requesting that this information be communicated to the provincial and customs authorities, I beg to express the hope that Your Highness and Your Excellencies will not only take every precaution to prevent outbreaks of violence at the foreign settlements, but also will issue stringent orders to the authorities of the provinces and of Manchuria and Mongolia, enjoining the protection of Japanese subjects who may be travelling in the interior, in those localities, and to permit their safe return to the treaty ports.

I

I avail etc. etc. etc.

(Sgd) Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

To His Imperial Highness Prince Ching
and Their Excellencies the
Ministers of the Tsungli Yamên

Enclosure 4 in No

Mr. Denby to Mr. Gresham.

Telegram. Aug. 1st 1894.
Sent 3 p.m.

Gresham, Washington,
War is declared
Japanese Chargé d'affaires
left Peking today has placed
interests Japanese subjects in
charge of Legation of the United
States outbreak feared Tientsin
requestwar vessel

Denby.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 19 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 1906.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 2nd, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ack'd 14" Sept. 9 a. m
To Navy 14" Sept. 9 a. m

Subject

Fear of outbreak at Tientsin

Synopsis

Explains reasons which dictated request for gunboat for that port

No 1906.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 2nd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Referring to the last words of my cipher telegram of the 1st instant, to the effect that outbreaks were feared at Tientsin and requesting a war vessel, I have the honor to state that the desirability of having an American gunboat at that port has been repeatedly urged upon me by the United States

States Consul and by the Japanese authorities. It seems that there are in that city more Japanese residents than at any place in China except Shanghai and, therefore, more danger of an outbreak of popular violence which, if unchecked, will make no distinction of nationalities.

Tientsin, also, will be the objective point of retreat, in case of defeat, for the Chinese troops, and will be near the line of march of the Japanese troops if they attempt to take Peking.

The Yamên has promised to make every effort to prevent peace

peace, but foreign gunboats will, for this purpose, be more efficacious than any efforts of the local authorities.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 18 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack'd file
SEP 13 1894

Dip

No 1907

Ack'd Sept. 14.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 3rd, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Assistance rendered by this Legation to Japanese Chargé and to the Yamên.

Synopsis

The Chargé d'Affaires of Japan and the Tungli Yamên both appeal to this Legation for the transmission of intelligence.

No 1907.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 3rd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

During the last few days, chiefly on the 30th and 31st July and the 1st August, this Legation has been frequently appealed to by the Chinese Government and the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires in Peking.

For some reason, not as yet explained, the Japanese Chargé found himself in

the

the unfortunate position of being unable to communicate with his government and was convinced that his telegrams were detained. For six days he remained without instructions. In the meantime China had notified him that diplomatic relations were broken off. His position at Peking was unpleasant and somewhat dangerous. Under these circumstances he addressed himself to me, and I undertook to obtain advice from Tokyo for him.

With this intention, I addressed two telegrams to Mr. Dun, American Minister, stating

stating, in the first, that the Japanese Chargé proposed to leave Peking, and, in the second, that the immediate transfer of the protection of the interests of Japanese subjects to the authorities of our country was necessary. He turned over his legation to me at noon on the 1st instant, as stated in my despatch No. 1905 of August 2nd, and, at 3 o'clock, left Peking with all the members of his legation, not having as yet received instructions.

Yesterday afternoon I received, however, a reply from Mr. Dun announcing that Japan

Lad

had given notice of the existence of war with China and that the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires had been recalled. This information, which fully justifies his departure, I promptly transmitted to him at Tientsin.

The difficulties of the Chinese Government were of a somewhat similar character. It had been decided to declare war against Japan, but the Ministers of the Yamên were unable to learn definitely whether the United States Government had consented to assume charge of Chinese subjects in Japan. On the 28th ultimo, they wrote me that Japan had

had commenced hostilities and requested me to inform you and ask that our Minister at Tokyo be ordered to assume protection of the Chinese. I telegraphed you the same day as confirmed in my despatch No. 1900 of the 30th ultimo. In the meantime and subsequently, the Yamên telegraphed repeatedly to Mr. Yang, at Washington, and to the Chinese Minister, at Tokyo, on this subject, but received no reply. On the 31st, two secretaries of the Yamên called at this Legation and told me that China was only awaiting information from you in order to declare war

war and recall their minister. They asked me, in the name of the Prince, to telegraph again to you. As I was confident, however, that you had already instructed Mr. Dun, I telegraphed to him instead. Without waiting for an answer to this telegram, they notified the foreign representatives, on the afternoon of the same day, that war with Japan existed.

Your telegram of July 31st, which was received here August 2nd, stating that "our "minister to Japan was "promptly instructed to exercise "good offices for China", was

at

at once communicated to the Yamên and put an end to their anxiety. A telegram from Mr. Dun, stating that he had actually taken the subjects, legation and consulates of China in Japan under his protection, was subsequently received and communicated to the Yamên this morning.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Disp

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. Copy to Navy Dept
SEP 13 1894

DI BUREAU.
SEP 15 1894
COPIED. FOREIGN RELATIONS.

No. 1908.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 4th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Ackd 13th Sept 9th m
Navy 13th Sept 9th m
Amiel Sept 17.

Subject

China asks notice of movements of American ships.

Synopsis

The Yamên writes that Japanese men-of-war are flying foreign flags, and requests that previous notice be given of proposed movements of American ships, to prevent their being mistaken for the enemy.

Two enclosures.

No 1908.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 4th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a translation of a despatch from the Yamên to this Legation, dated the 1st instant, in which it is stated that the war vessels of Japan, on this coast, are flying the flags of other countries, and employing other devices to conceal their identity.

1/1908

On

On this account, they request that the war and merchant vessels of the United States take certain measures to prevent their being taken for Japanese vessels and injury being done to them by the forces of China.

Without expressing any opinion as to the truth of the charge against the Japanese and the slender base on which it is founded, and without discussing the propriety of the request made or the practicability of granting it, I have simply replied that the matter would be referred to the United States naval authorities.

I enclose a copy of my reply.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby No. 23. Aug. 1st, 1894.

2. Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên No. 25 Aug. 3rd, 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No 1908.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Denby.

No 23. August 1st 1894.

The Prince and Ministers have the honor to state that they have been placed in receipt of a telegram from the Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade, to the effect that he had received a wire from the Commandant of the Chinese forces at Chefoo, stating that "a German merchant who "had arrived from Corea had "represented that while en route "he saw a Japanese man-of-war "illicitly flying the British flag; "that the color of the vessel had "been changed, it was painted "black". The Superintendent of Trade requested that a communication be addressed to the foreign representatives at Peking, requesting that when vessels of war were plying along the

China

China coast, information of
their movements be given
beforehand to the Chinese
authorities in order that they
may have some means of
recognizing them.

Now it appears that Japan
has commenced hostilities against
China, an act in violation of
international usage. It is now
ascertained that Japanese vessels
are improperly using the British
flag, which is particularly a
deceitful and treacherous act,
and if she is to carry on such
underhanded schemes it would be
difficult to guarantee that she
would not surreptitiously use
the flags of other countries, with
the purpose and intention of making
a false representation. The Prince
and Minister, as in duty bound,
address the Chargé d'Affaires
of the United States, requesting
him to send an immediate despatch

by

by wire to the commanding
officer of the United States naval
squadron that, when United
States vessels of war are plying
along the northern and southern
sea coast, as well as the seaports
of Fukien and Kwangtung,
the consuls should beforehand
inform the Superintendent of Customs
of the vessel's name, the design
of the flag, the number of masts,
smokestacks, color of vessel, the
time she left and place of
destination, so that the above
particulars may be communicated
to the various local authorities
and render it convenient for them,
when the vessels are near by,
to distinguish and recognize
them. If such notice is not
given of the flag of the vessel, or
vessels, and other particulars
as enumerated above, it would
in a hurried manner be difficult
to distinguish between the Japanese

and

and others and it is to be feared that it would not be an easy matter to prevent injury being done to them by mistake. Merchant vessels arriving in port should, also, without delay, be reported to the Customs authorities for inspection, thus avoiding confusion between them and vessels of war.

This is merely China's purpose to be watchful and careful in the matter of defensive measures which the foreign nations will certainly make due allowance for and excuse.

The Prince and Ministers beg that the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States will favor them with a reply to this communication.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1908

Mr. Denby to the Tungli Yamên

No. 25 August 3rd 1894.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have received your despatch, of the 1st instant, stating that you have been informed that Japanese men-of-war are surreptitiously flying the flag of England, and in other ways disguising their true character, and that you fear that they may also use the flags of other nations for purposes of deception, and you request that the consuls of the United States be required to supply the Superintendents of Customs, of the districts which American ships propose to visit, with a full description of such vessels and their intended movements.

This despatch has been communicated

to

to the senior naval officer of the United States on this station for his information, with a request that he comply therewith.

It is to be observed, however, that the American warships in these seas are few in number, they have been long on this station and are well known to the naval authorities of China. It is not believed that they could be successfully imitated by the Japanese.

I have etc., etc., etc.

(Sig'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

etc. etc. etc

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 13 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 18 1894

Copy

Acted Sept. 14.

No 1909.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 4th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Chinese defeat Japanese at Yashan

Synopsis

Enclosing an imperial decree rewarding the victorious troops.

One enclosure.

No 1909.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 4th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

During the last few days there have circulated rumors in Peking of a battle at Yashan, near Chemulpo in Corea, on the 27th and 28th July, between the troops of China and Japan, in which the former were victorious. The Chinese Government has received official despatches to the same effect, much to

the

the gratification of the Emperor.

I enclose, herewith, a

1/1909 translation of a decree from the Peking Gazette of yesterday, bestowing a reward of 20.000 taels on the soldiers and officers engaged.

The General Yeh Chi-chao, mentioned in this decree and who is in command of the Chinese troops in Corea, is the same who put down the rebellion in Mongolia in 1892. I regret to observe that his official reports as to the losses of the enemy in that campaign were not circumstantially verified.

It seems to be conceded, however

however, that the Japanese have suffered a defeat at Yashan.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Decree as above.

Enclosure in No 1909.

Decree issued by the Emperor by command of Her Majesty the Empress Dowager.

We have received a telegram from Li Hung-chang announcing that the troops under command of Yeh Chih-chao, General Commandant of the forces of Chihli on the 27th and 28th of July, joined battle with the Japanese forces at Yashan and vicinity, in Corea, resulting in the defeat of the Japanese, with a loss of over 2.000 men.

It is gratifying to find that our troops were really roused to warlike energy and that they displayed such courage.

As a mark of imperial favor Her Majesty bestows the sum of taels 20.000 as a reward to be given to the officers and soldiers as a stimulus to valor.

Received

Issued and published in the
Peking Gazette of Aug. 3rd 1894.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack Grubjt file
SEP 12 1894

No. 1910. Recd Sept 14

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 4th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 12 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

China's explanation of the war.

Synopsis

Encloses a translation of a despatch from the Yamên explaining the outbreak of war with Japan.

One enclosure.

No. 1910.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 4th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/ enclose, herewith, a translation
910 of a despatch addressed to this Legation on the 31st ultimo. A similar despatch was sent to the representatives of all the foreign powers.

This despatch is an explanation of the events which led to the present war and is intended

to

to justify China in the eyes of the world. In reply to the Yamên, I have merely acknowledged receipt of the despatch and stated that I would forward to you a translation thereof.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby No 22, July 31st 1894.

Enclosure 1 with despatch No 1910

The Foreign office to Mr Chaloner Ewen Esq

No. 22

Peking July 31st 1894

In consequence of the insurrection that took place in the Chinan Province in Corea some time ago, the King of Corea presented a communication in which he asked China to give him aid and help towards suppressing it The Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade thereupon memorialized the Throne in the matter.

Upon two previous occasions, risings against the political authority of the Government of Corea have occurred, and tranquility has been restored by the military action of China. On the recent uprising a detachment of Chinese troops ~~was~~ was sent to Corea, — not to Seoul, but to the vicinity of

The

the city of Chiang Lo, when the trouble broke out, but when the insurgents heard of this they dispersed. Our military force showed compassion on the people who were in distress and had actually planned to leave the scene when the disturbance occured, when, to our surprise, the Japanese Government despatched a contingent of soldiers to Corea, under the false assumption that they were to be employed in helping to suppress the rebellion. But in reality, the troops were sent direct to Seoul and there stationed at the important points about the Capital. Additional detachments of troops were afterwards dispatched, from time to time, to Corea, making a total number of over 10.000 men. The object the Japanese had in view was, after all,

to

to impress Corea by her power and coerce her not to recognize China as a sovereign power. The Japanese presented a list of many administrative reforms, all of which they insisted the King should carry into effect.

Now it appears that Corea has been a tributary kingdom of China for many years - a fact that is well known throughout the world. —

When treaties are negotiated and concluded between Corea and foreign powers this fact was made known and is a matter of record. Japan, in forcing Corea not to recognize China as a sovereign power has, thereby injured the honor and constitutional rule of China and has broken the friendly relations which have hitherto existed between the two countries. It is certainly an

admirable

admirable and worthy idea to persuade a neighbouring state, to bring about reforms and regulate its administration system of Government, but it should be roused or urged to action, only by means of kind and friendly words; it it is in accordance with the right governing principle to employ a large body of troops to oppress the country and by force compel reforms to be made? Such a procedure not only China would not bear, - looking on quietly without doing anything, all the Foreign Governments, it is believed, would also regard it as being wrong and improper.

From first to last frequent instructions have been sent by the British and Russian Governments to their diplomatic

diplomatic representatives in Japan, to make overtures to the Japanese Secretary for Foreign Affairs, to induce his Government to cease further operations. The British Secretary of State for Foreign affairs, Endeavoured to persuade the Japanese Government to withdraw their troops from Seoul. The Chinese and Japanese forces thus being stationed at different places, in an Even tempered spirit, the Corean question could then be discussed. Such a discussion would have been just and right, but the Japanese were overbearing, they refused to give Ear to the Entreaty made, and sent further detachments of troops to Corea.

The Corean people, as well as the Chinese merchants residents in Corea, were becoming daily more and more terrified

terrified and annoyed -
China is actuated by a desire to
cultivate and maintain the
strongest relations of friendship with
all nations, and she certainly
would not in a hasty manner
commence hostilities, thus causing
great distress to human life and
bringing injury to Commerce.
Although additional Chinese troops
were afterwards sent to Corea to
give protection, they were stationed
a long distance from the capital
and did not join battle with
the Japanese. For what reason
should the Japanese meditate
trouble by breach of faith? It appears
that on the 21st of July, off the coast
of Yashan, there were several Japanese
war vessels who opened fire and
caused damage to our transports,

a

as well as sunk the British steamer "Kowshing" which was flying the British flag. From a general view such action is unwarrantable. Although China's earnest desire is to be friendly with other nations, still she would find it difficult now, even in an indirect manner, to compromise matters, and there is no alternative but for her to decide on a determined plan of action.

It is believed that the foreign governments, on learning of the actual state of affairs, will be astonished and will know where to place the responsibility.

The Prince and Ministers present the above, being all the particulars, from first to last, of Japan's action in commencing hostilities, which is an act not only contrary to principle but

but a violation of International
law. They beg the Chargé d'Affaires
of the United States to communicate
this despatch to his Government.

A necessary communication
addressed to

Charles Lindey Jr. Esqr.

&c, &c, &c,

Dup

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. & File
SEP 24 1894

File

No 191.

C

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 5th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP. 22 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Decree explaining the war

Synopsis

Encloses translation of a decree, of 1st instant, explaining outbreak of hostilities, and giving orders for movement of troops.

One enclosure.

No 1911.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

enclose, herewith, a translation

1/1911 of an imperial decree, which

appeared in the Peking Gazette

of the 1st instant.

This decree explains to

the people of China the causes

of the war. It is a justification

by the Emperor of the hostilities

in which the nation is involved.

It is published as he says
"for the information of our
"people that they may know
"that in this affair the action
"taken by us has been actuated
"by a sense of the utmost kindness
"and of what was right and
"just."

Orders are given to the
Viceroy Li to despatch troops
to Corea "to join battle with
our foe", and the authorities
of the maritime provinces
are directed to engage with
any Japanese vessels that
approach, which "without
"regard to number are to be
"destroyed and exterminated."
The decree concludes with

a

a timely warning against
any disposition to retreat.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Decree as above.

Translation. Enclosure 1 with despatch No 1911

A decree issued by His Majesty the Emperor of China, August 1st, 1894.

Corea has for more than 200 years been a tributary kingdom of China and she has every year sent us her offerings of tribute. This is known to China and Foreign powers alike.

During the last ten and more years there has been frequent insurrections in Corea and sheltering, as we have, a kindly feeling towards a small and weak power, we have on several occasions despatched our troops there, by whose action tranquility has been

between Corea and Japan. We have also despatched a representative to Seoul at Seoul for the purpose of extending his good offices in the way of giving protection (to the Corean) as occasion made it necessary.

During May of this year another insurrection occurred in Corea by a rebellious faction and as the King requested us to come to his aid and help suppress the outbreak, We commanded Li Hung-Chang to despatch a contingent of soldiers to render due assistance. On our forces reaching Yashan, the insurgents dispersed and scattered like stars. But the

Japanese

Japanese, however, without
cause or reason despatched a
force of soldiers to Seoul and
afterwards there was supplemented
by additional detachments
making the total of over
10.000 men. Japan's policy
was to force Corea to make
changes in her system of
administration of Government.
In everything demanded,
they presumed on their power
and it was difficult or impossible
to make them amenable to
reason or advice.

Our Government has adopted
the policy to tranquilize our
vassal domain, but in
the administration of her
affairs

affairs of state we have hitherto
commanded Corea to manage
them herself. Japan and
Corea Entered into treaty relations
a. between the states, and it
is decidedly against all reason
for Japan by a strong military
force to insult and oppress
Corea and compel her by
such means to make changes
in the administration of
her Government. The public
opinion in foreign countries
is that Japan, in sending
an armed force, for no proper
reason to Corea, is at variance
with the fundamental principles
of reason. She has been in
persuaded to withdraw her

troops

troops and to discuss the questions at issue in an even-tempered spirit, but she has been overbearing and refused to give ear to the Entreaty made:- afterall nothing has been accomplished to the end in view.

She has, however continued to send further reinforcements of troops to Corea. The Corean people, as well as the Chinese merchants resident in Corea were becoming daily more and more terrified and annoyed, when China despatched additional contingents of troops for the purpose of affording due protection.

To

To our surprise, while our transports were en route to Corea, they suddenly met a number of Japanese war vessels. Knowing that our vessels were not prepared to meet them in action, when off the coast of Yashan, the Japanese vessels opened fire and damaged and destroyed some of our transports. This changed aspect of affairs — certainly was a surprise —

The Japanese, have, by their action, not only violated treaty stipulations, but they have disregarded the rules of international law. They have also arbitrarily acted in

in a violent and oppressive
manner and have been
guilty of treacherous rebellion.
They are responsible for the
commencement of hostilities
which justly speaking is plain
and clear.

We now proclaim this
special decree for the information
of our people that they may
know that in this affair
the action taken by us has
been actuated by a sense of
the utmost kindness and of what
was right and just; but the
Japanese on the contrary, have
broken the compact with
Corea and commenced hostilities, —
an act entirely in violation

of

of all principle - Under the present condition of affairs it is impossible for us to show any leniency whatever.

Let Li Hung-chang issue stringent orders for the immediate despatch of troops from the various armies to the seat of war to join battle with our foe - Let the very best drilled troops be selected and be despatched from time to time, and thus rescue the Corean people from their present state of distress.

Let all the Tartar-Generals, Governor-General and Governors of the inner and Maritime provinces, and the high military

Military Commanders make
all arrangements for warfare
and whenever Japanese steam
vessels are not entering any
of the Treaty ports, they are to
meet them and fight them
to the very utmost. Without
regard to their number they
are all to be destroyed and
exterminated. Let there be
not the least show of retreating
under the penalty of punishment.

This, Our Edict, is proclaimed
for General information.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Atk. & Fld
SEP 22 1894

File

SEP 22 1894

No 1912.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 5th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Account of Japanese and Chinese armies

Synopsis

Encloses account from the North China Daily News.

Two enclosures.

No 1912.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 5th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, an account of the Japanese army, translated from <u>Der Ostasiatische Lloyd</u> and published in the North China Daily News of the 23rd ultimo, and also an account of the Chinese army, from the same source, published in the North China Daily News of the

the 24th ultimo.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

1 and 2, clippings as above.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1912.

From The North China Daily News, Shanghai
July 23rd 1894.

JAPAN'S ARMIES.

(Translated from Der Ostasiatische Lloyd.)

When three decades ago, Japan awoke out of the sleep of her isolation and attached herself to the civilisation of the West, her first care was the re-organisation of her army. The result may truly be called astonishing. Thus the Ministry of War now possesses a standing army of at least fifty thousand men and can, immediately after a declaration of war, place 100,000 men in the field equipped and armed as well as the best armies of the West. Each of these soldiers has passed at least one year of active service and by far the greater number three years. And yet only a quarter of a century ago the Japanese soldier still wore great grotesque iron-visored helmets, with which to frighten the enemy, chain and lacquer cuirasses to make his blows harmless, and at his head stood the leader with a fan in his hand. Was there any cause present that led Japan to re-model her army with such a feverish haste? Without a doubt this was the case, for various elements contributed to keep alive in the land of the Rising Sun the fear of complications with a foreign power. China, which looks upon Japan as a traitor towards Asia, gave constant cause for alarm; in the Liuchiu islands and in Corea a series of misunderstandings of a threatening character have occurred, and the latter country especially has always been held likely sooner or latter to prove an apple of discord in oriental politics. The events of the last few weeks have given evidence that in this matter Japan has not gone wrong.

By the abolition of the Daimios or feudal princes after the restoration of 1868—a voluntary and patriotic process by which their enormous revenues were reduced ninety per cent., and as they were no longer in a position to support their great armies of dependents, the Samurai—a proud and noble-born caste of warriors, which composed some ten per cent of the population—found themselves deprived of their bread; and so it was not difficult to incorporate them in the army. Although the Samurai was a born warrior and a brave one to boot, still his employment as a unit of a modern army was combined with many difficulties; for he frequently found himself placed in subordination to persons his social inferiors and from whom, except for their uniforms, respect was due to him. For this reason it was hard to enforce discipline, and the incorporation of the Samurai merely served to fill the gap between the two poles of feudal service on the one hand and the conscription on the other. This last was made law in Japan in 1874 and from this year dates the introduction of the modern military system into Japan. The army ordinances were somewhat altered ten years later, the strength of the troops was raised, but with sundry subsequent additions and alterations, these form the actual military system of Japan.

The first article prescribes universal military service. Every Japanese is liable to service from his seventeenth to his fortieth year. The land army is thus apportioned:—1.—The standing army. 2.—The reserve of the standing army. 3.—The reserve. 4.—The territorial army. The soldier has to serve three years in the standing army, four years in the reserve of the standing army, five years in the reserve and eleven years in the territorial army. Thus the full term of service is theoretically twenty three years—the interval between 17 and 40— but practically only twelve years; for, while the forces under No. 2 and No. 3 serve sixty days in each year, the territorial army is only called out in case of war. As in Germany, so in Japan, those who hold an examination certificate of a certain class need only serve one year; these volunteers must feed and clothe themselves. Seeing, however, that the annual levy, if strictly enforced, would bring in many more recruits than the government requires —(it is reckoned that 200,000 new recruits are annually available)—a system of exemptions has been arranged. Thus, in addition to cripples and the like, the following exemptions have been introduced:— Persons under 4 feet 11½ inches in height: one of two brothers summoned simultaneously, or one who already has a brother in the army: the brother of a man who has died or been crippled in the service: heads of families: priests: teachers in the public schools: students attending educational establishments acknowledged by government: physicians: government officials whose obligatory service cannot be undertaken by others. But even after these exceptions, which amount to an average of 40 per cent of the population liable to military service, the numbers are still larger than required. For this reason a peculiar system of surplus numbers has been invented whereby those recruits who draw a surplus lot only serve one year and then pass into the standing army reserve. The number of these "surplus" men is thus unfixed.

The organisation of the Japanese army diverges somewhat from that of European forces. Thus one regiment of infantry consists of three battalions, each of four companies; on the peace-footing, one company has 5 officers, 27 under-officers and 160 privates, and is thus 192 men strong; on a war-footing the company is re-inforced by 80 privates, bringing the company up to 272 men. In peace, a regiment of infantry comprises four commanding officers, 65 officers, 349 under-officers and 1,920 privates or all told, and including nine non-combatant officers, 2,347 men and 12 horses. In time of war the regiment is brought up to 2,880 men. The cavalry battalion has a peace strength of 159 men and 135 horses and, on a war-footing, of 189 men and 140 horses. The battery of artillery, two of which form a brigade, is composed of 148 men with 86 horses and four guns; on a war-footing 10 gunners and two guns are added. Thus in time of

peace a brigade consists of one commanding officer, 240 gunners and nine non-combatant officers, or all told, 306 men, 8 guns and 180 horses. The artillery is armed with seven and a half centimetre guns of an Italian model, manufactured at the Japanese arsenal in Osaka.

The Imperial Guard, and *corps d'élite* comprising all arms, is a special division of troops permanently quartered in Tokio. Their uniform is distinguished by a red band round the cap, that of all the other troops being yellow. This *Garde-du-corps* is composed of two infantry regiments, one battalion of cavalry, one brigade of artillery and one company of pioneers. In addition to the troops of the line and this *Garde-du-corps*, the military academy, the military staff college and the gendarmerie are included in the total of effective troops.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese army is his Royal Highness General Prince Arisugawa, an uncle of the Emperor. He is President of the General Bureau of State *(Sanbo Hombu)* which answers to our Ministry of War. While the Minister of War collects and organises the troops, the Commander-in-Chief leads and directs them. For military purposes Japan is divided into seven districts in each of which is stationed one division of the army under the command of a General.

The practical result of the arrangement and the organisation described above is a Japanese army with a paper strength of 210,000 men. The following table exhibits in a simple form all the divisions of which it is composed, as also their distribution. The statistics are for the year 1891 ; the numbers to-day would show but little alteration :—

Division.	Head-quarters.	Geographical Division.	Strength.
1.	Tokio	The Capital	9,210
2.	Sendai	Main Island (North)	8,920
3.	Nagoya	Middle (East)	8,267
4.	Osaka	Middle	8,655
5.	Hiroshima	Middle (West)	7,223
6.	Kumamoto	South	7,476
7.	Yezo (Militia)	North (Yezo)	1,461
Imperial Guard, Tokio			5,591
			56,803
Military schools		2,910	
Gendarmerie		1,376	
			4,286
Reserves		101,273	
Territorial army		44,939	
			146,212
Central Staff			2,014
Total strength			209,315

The *personnel* of these totals consists of :—

Staff Officers.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers.	Privates.
450	3,360	10,391	193,804

The proportion of the different arms in Japan, active as well as reserve, (with the exception of the military schools, the central staff, etc.) may be seen from the subjoined table :—

	Active.	Reserve.	Total.
Infantry	38,089	64,293	102,382
Cavalry	671	788	1,459
Artillery	3,817	4,064	7,881
Pioneers	1,708	1,814	3,522
Train	548	54,458	55,006
Gendarmerie	1,435	1	1,436
Total	46,268	125,418	171,686

What strikes one in the above table is the extremely disproportionately small number of cavalry. The reason of this may be that they are of opinion in Japan that owing to the mountainous nature of the country, but little use can be made of this branch of their armament. Still 1,500 mounted soldiers in an army of 176,000 would most assuredly not suffice to do the work of outpost and escort duties. This branch has since been raised to about 3,000 men. The small difference in the active and reserve trains is also remarkable. The proportion of men enlisted is 17 per cent of the population ; of these at most 4 to 5 per cent are drawn into active service, while of those offering, some 40 per cent are not called upon to serve. How many of these 210,000 men could be despatched as genuine fighters to a war, is a question which we must leave unanswered.

Finally with regard to the drill and discipline of the Japanese army, there is not much to be said ; at least little that would be new to a European ; for the Westerner who would look to find in their drill anything of the picturesque or amusing, such as he finds in China, would be disappointed. The drill is copied exactly from that of European troops, especially that of Germany. The Japanese army is in reality a European force and any one of their army divisions, with the exception of the cavalry, which is small and would look badly mounted, might march through the streets of any town on the Continent, without, at first sight, being recognised as Oriental troops. Every foreign expert who has had occasion to see Japanese infantry at drill, has expressed his admiration at the manner in which the various evolutions were carried out, evolutions which would do credit to a crack regiment of the Prussian guard. The squadron drill of the cavalry is also excellent, though spoilt by the miserable appearance of the ponies. The artillery leaves nothing to be desired and the shooting practice is good. In the event of a war between China and Japan, there cannot be a doubt that the latter would win the first battles, unless the numbers of the Chinese forces were very largely in excess of the Japanese. And, looking to the fact that China is in a position to be able at any time to send millions of the raw material of soldiers into the field, it requires no prophetic eye to see what the final result of a Chino-Japanese war would be.

Enclosure 2 in No 1912.

From the North China Daily News, Shanghai, July 24. 1894.

CHINA'S ARMIES.

(Translated from Der Ostasiatiche Lloyd.)

At the present moment, with the armies of China and Japan standing opposite each other "armed to the teeth," no subject of greater interest than an examination into the condition of their respective forces could well be found;—for there can be little doubt that, in the event of its coming to blows, the quarrel will have to be fought out on *terra firma;* a naval engagement, whatever its result, will hardly yield a final solution of the dispute and so the condition of the navy is of only secondary interest. The time has therefore come for a close examination into the land forces of the country.

It would be wrong to assume that China's army has made no progress since 1860, or even only small progress; on the other hand, it will not do to overvalue the progress actually made. The main improvement is in the armament; reforms in the fields of tactics and strategy are opposed to the Chinese character. It is true that the arming of their infantry with modern weapons has greatly increased the power of Chinese forces, combined, as it is, with an inexhaustible supply of the raw material of armies. China possesses an extraordinary pertinacity and passive power of resistance; the long drawn out, bloody Taiping revolt has been thoroughly extinguished and the great loss of men in Tongking in 1884-5 was borne exclusively by two provinces. China has the power of putting such masses of men in the field as to crush any opponent, especially when we consider that the strength of any army set down in East Asia must be comparatively limited. To conquer China would require such numbers that their transport alone would meet with insuperable technical difficulties, and the necessary sacrifices of men and money would be such as no commercial or ideal advantages would justify.

China has been compared to a steel bullet: a simple pressure leaves no trace, while a heavy blow knocks it all to pieces. The Governors-General are responsible to the Central Government for the security of their respective provinces. The extent to which this system of government by deputy, this independence of separate parts giving sovereign powers to the Viceroys, is liable to endanger the Throne itself—is an open question; but the system has a determining influence upon the whole organisation of the defence of the country, besides entailing numerous ulterior consequences. Seeing that even in war time, the Viceroys have to care almost exclusively for the safety of their own proper provinces, each has its own system of special troops; and thus each province possesses a double garrison—the Imperial and the Viceregal. This explains how the conditions of strength vary; one Governor-General devotes more, another less attention to his troops; one Governor employs European instructors, while another employs none. The Viceroys of the coast provinces soon found themselves compelled to build men-of-war; partly for protection against piracy, partly for the reason that the Central government is here able to apply greater pressure.

The provinces in the interior of the Empire found themselves almost entirely freed from any war burdens. It is naturally the interest of each Viceroy to retain the fruits of his exertions for himself; in no case is he inclined to come to the assistance of a neighbour who is worse provided, and incur the danger of denuding his own province, for whose safety he is responsible with his head. By this system, common action is virtually excluded. And, as the principle of individual responsibility for a definite object is carried down step by step, the commanders of regiments having to take their orders from the local officials, so, in actual war, no real mutual support for offensive purposes is to be reckoned upon; all remain shut up in a purely defensive state, holding themselves back in such a way that anything like energetic action is illusory. In order to form a judgment of the capabilities of a Chinese army, these conditions must be taken into account and not any deceptive enumeration of the forces themselves. Affairs are said to be so bad in some of the interior provinces that one Governor-General's troops are regarded as enemies by the authorities of the neighbouring province.

Let us turn to the army itself, that is to say, to that portion which is armed and constructed upon a European model. We will leave entirely out of account all those *corps d'élite* and fancy regiments in the interior which are still armed with spear and matchlock of antediluvian type; although these, if properly handled, rspresent, by their numbers, no inconsiderable force, still the only troops which, by their training and if well led, are in a position to face a foreign foe, are portions of the Chihli and Peking garrisons. We shall deal now with this army and then show how far behind are the other forces of the empire. As far as the general organisation of the former is concerned, the old system still prevails, but stimulated by modern methods in a most curious manner. The division into Banner troops, into Chinese and Manchu regiments, under a mixed command of Chinese and Tartars, is so deeply rooted that it is easy to see how, in consequence of these co-ordinated commanders, all modern instruction is made illusory. A certain amount of progress was noticeable in Chihli during the last war, inasmuch as one general was entrusted with the defence of the coast and another with the supreme command of all the troops. But even in this case both were subordinated to the Governor-General, Li Hung-chang.

The Chinese army is maintained by recruiting; in some of the Western, mainly Mahommedan provinces, however, there exists a system of limited universal service. The supply of men, even in war time, is constantly in excess of the demand. From the fact that most commanders of garrisons undertake themselves the supply of their troops, the cost of maintenance is cheap and the commanders have something left over for themselves. The pay varies according to the different provinces, but, even when regularly paid, it does not amount to more than one pound sterling per month, out of which the soldier has to feed and clothe himself. The wants of the Chinese soldier are modest in the extreme and herein lies the main strength of a Chinese army.

A few years ago the armament and training of the infantry were no better than they were at the time of the Taiping rebellion. H.E. Li Huug-chang was the first Viceroy who ventured not only to employ European instructors,—this had been done before,—but energetically to carry out their proposals. The Central government did not regard the innovation unfavourably, since General Gordon, with his "ever-victorious" army of 4,000 men, had given proof of what a *corps* led in European fashion can do. During the Taiping rebellion this had been the main stay of the Emperor and his throne. Americans, English, Germans and Frenchmen had served in this corps whose strength consisted in their discipline.

French officers had acted as instructors in the Chinese army for many years, of whom it is well known that their activity manifested itself in every possible direction with the exception of drill. The road for German influence was opened by the Tientsin Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Detring, the confidant of Li Hung-chang, through whom he was not without influence upon the decisions of the Court at Peking. By his advice the central government pressed upon the Viceroys in each province the engagement of German officers.

Two things, however, hindered the reform of military administration in China: the conservative character of the people themselves and the spirit of opposition in the Chinese officers. The Chinese civilisation is the oldest in the world and, the more we learn to know this people, the more we see how astonishingly slight is the impression made upon them by our European culture. It may be possible to replace their antiquated weapons with those of European construction, but absolutely impossible to force upon them the spirit of our modern military education in the slightest degree.

The military calling enjoys in China less consideration than any other occupation soever. The *wu-kuan* (military official) stands behind his colleague of the civil service. Promotion is by favour. Any sort of scientific training, even Chinese, is not demanded of an officer; the higher posts are sold, the lower awarded to friends and relations. Few even know anything of practical service (except possibly in the old-fashioned Chinese corps). Add to this that the principle rules in China that every Chinese who has passed his examination in the classics is fit for the highest posts in the administration; be it in the Army, in the Navy, or on the bench of Justice; and so the highest posts in the army may come to be filled by officials who know absolutely nothing of war.

Under conditions of such a nature it is the work of Sisyphus to fight against the old-existing methods, ideas and habits. These break through everywhere when an opening is afforded them. If we desire to discover what has been effected so far, we must take a look at the ancient Chinese drill. This consists in the formation of close masses. By these it is sought, without any attempt to take advantage of the ground, to force the enemy to give way by massed fire, without attempting any determined attack to crush the enemy. When the Chinese generals discovered that these tactics were powerless against a European foe (they didn't even know how to make use of their new weapons), they reverted to the bow and arrow theory, withdrew into their camp and awaited the attack with closed doors. Of course neither mud walls nor gates could withstand artillery; one camp after another was taken by storm for, according to pure Chinese rules of war, not one of the camps within the range of fire would dream of coming to the aid of a hardly pressed neighbour. A recent exercise of the Canton infantry was conducted as follows: the troops were musket and lance-bearers mixed; the former armed with muzzle loaders, the latter with lances twenty feet in length. Each section carried two banners,—an excellent mark for the enemy. All the evolutions were directed by a big gong stationed to the front. The chief strength of these troops *d'elite* consisted in repeated volleys; change of front was executed by the single files running off in the desired direction while firing off their muskets. Numerous other exercises followed, the object of which was totally incomprehensible to a European observer.

In the year 1885 two German instructors were entrusted with the training of the Chinese infantry of Chihli, a duty which they carried out thoroughly; and the influence of strict Prussian drill is visible on the parade ground to-day. The exercises, the facings, slow march are all performed admirably (the last is a speciality of the Chinese);—as also the quick march. But these made up the whole of the training of the battalion of the Viceroy, Li Hung-chang. Firing is also practised, but in the quick march (in the double, of course); then follows company and battalion drill, all in quick step and in close column: the attack is ordered, but instead of the command "March; March," a halt is called and then a volley, the whole in strict formation without the slightest attempt to utilise the ground. Sharp-shooting is practised in this fashion day after day; the recruits learn it thus from the soldiers, and every one, from the Viceroy down to the lowest non-com., holds this manœuvre to be unsurpassable.

In the troops thus taught a sort of routine developed which, considerably curtailed, was passed on to other divisions of the army in different provinces to which trained drill-masters were assigned. Passed on thus through different hands, the new training became more and more affected by ancient native habits until very soon little trace of the original teaching was left, and a kind of mixture resulted little better than the old Chinese drill pure and simple. This European training was not communicated to the troops by their officers but by a special class of non-commissioned offiers acting as drill-masters. In the province of Chihli each company was furnished with an instructor of this class, under whose orders on the parade ground were placed the officers as well as the men. The capabilities thus acquired were purely technical and a great point was held to have been achieved when the men had been taught to load their muskets properly. The Chihli infantry is armed mainly with the German infantry rifle "M-71" from the factories of Soemmerda, Obendorf and Steyr; several hundred, made with iron barrels, hail from the United States. Many of the Peking troops are likewise furnished with this weapon alongside numbers of other various types.

China will never possess a cavalry in the European sense of the word. In the first place there exists no suitable supply of horses. The Mongolian pony is possessed of endurance for long marches, but is much too light and is only thirteen to fourteen hands high. The supply is sufficient and every ten years the whole material is renewed. The Governor-General either pays the commanders a certain sum-total, for which these have to furnish the remounts, or else he provides them himself by means of a commission despatched to Mongolia to buy ponies. The commanders of camps are allowed a fairly high sum for the fodder,—amounting in Chihli to 14 shillings per horse monthly.

In this way the cavalry remains as it was, an agile infantry which, from a Chinese point of view, possesses the enviable advantage over its brothers in arms of being able more promptly to place a comfortable distance between itself and the enemy when necessary. They are armed with Winchester carbines: in a fight they do not dismount to fire but the division rides in single file, one behind the other, in an extended circle; then each rider fires off his rifle as he passes before turn comes round again. Any idea of manœuvring is absolutely non-existent. This cavalry is totally worthless for scouting purposes, chiefly on account of the untrustworthiness of the men. The Manchu cavalry in the interior is said to consist of 40,000 to 50,000 riders: on the coast provinces there is no trace of them.

The artillery is the favourite weapon of the Chinese; evil tongues say, because it makes the most noise. This branch is by far the best organised (although, of course, in no way comparable with that of Europe) —and for this simple reason that the working of artillery demands science, experience and study far beyond anything of which the Chinese are capable. They are consequently here more than elsewhere dependent upon foreigners and more willing to learn from them. The German instructors have succeeded in Chihli in creating a really excellent artillery, after considerable difficulties overcome in collecting together the diverse material ordered from all quarters, and getting into working order. Unremitting attention has to be kept up, for no order can be depended upon to be carried out unless he who gives the order stands by to oversee its fulfilment. Chihli possesses the strongest and best field artillery in all China; the pieces are all "Krupp" and, as a result of constant supervision, are kept in good order. The training of the gunners is good and their shooting well taught.

Such is the condition of the best army in China,—that of Chihli. It will be sufficient to show how far the other armies come up to the above ideal. The Viceroy of Nanking has scorned to make use of European officers for the training of his troops; his instructors are non-commissioned native officers educated in Chihli. In every respect, except in armament, this infantry stands on a very low footing: there is an outline of European training, but so far no practical application of it has been attempted. The cavalry rank still lower if possible and like that in Chihli is armed with swords and repeating rifles. The field artillery is mostly provided with "Krupp" guns though not so fully as in Chihli. The training of the gunners is thus managed. When the guns are delivered to the Government a few men are trained to use them in the Shanghai arsenal, and after a few weeks these are transferred to the camp with the guns and there communicate their acquired knowledge to the remainder. It is clear that in this fashion the general training is necessarily a very superficial one.

In Canton and in the southern provinces of China generally, tactical training in accordance with European principles has only been introduced in the last few years. The first Chinese armies which marched into Tongking from Kuangsi in 1884 were in nothing distinguishable from the old-fashioned Chinese troops but in their armament. They were nearly all armed with breechloaders of modern type and to each "corps" were attached several batteries of "Krupps." The French had easy work with these helpless swarms; the compact masses were soon shaken by their fire and they were quickly routed. This tactical helplessness was exhibited even in the field fortifications which were in other respects well designed. Not till late in the day did the mandarins and the Viceroys come to replace the want of training by numbers, wherein lay their strength. The Governor-General of Canton posseses little or no cavalry. The ponies in south China scarcely reach the height of twelve hands, and animals imported from the north, even mules, are unable to stand the marshy climate of south China. Besides this the ground is so cut up by paddy-fields and embankments and much of the land so exposed to prolonged inundations, and so frightful is the condition of the roads round Canton, that movements of artillery and cavalry are practically impossible.

There is in China no engineer corps in the European sense and, strictly speaking, no army train. The Commander of each of the encampments receives from the Governor-General a round sum out of which he has to provide ponies and mules for transport, as well as their fodder. As far as an outsider can judge, it is precisely here that the worst squeezing takes place. Scarcely a single General maintains the standard number of transport animals. Seeing that a yearly official inspection by officers deputed by the Government to report takes place, it is evident that the Generals have to make their arrangements with these deputies. In no country is bribery so common as in China. It is nothing more than custom for a General charged with the supply of transport animals to enrich himself. In an interview with a high government official the conversation turned upon a colonel who had latterly grown very rich. "Yes," said the worthy official, "but he receives pay for six hundred horses." This camp-commander probably only maintained sixty.

The commissariat of the troops is irregular in the highest degree. As the soldier, even in the field, must look after his own provisioning, the mobility of the army is restricted by many side issues. It is true, and this is a point we cannot enough insist upon, that the wants of the Chinese soldier are extremely modest as far as eating and drinking go: still, a properly organized Train and Commissariat would increase the value of a Chinese army tenfold, and not until then will its great mass be capable of exhibiting its real destructive powers.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State
AUG 14 1894

From Peking

August 6, 1894.

Received 9.10 A.M.

Gresham,

Washington.

China proposes to Japan mutually to abstain from molesting merchant vessels. Have telegraphed the United States Minister at Japan.

Denby.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. & File
SEP 24 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 24 1894

No 1913.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 6th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Encloses a copy of China's declaration of war.

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191

One enclosure.

No. 1913.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 6th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/1913

enclose, herewith, a translation of an official despatch received by Mr. Komura, Chargé d'Affaires of Japan, from the Tsungli Yamên the day before his departure. I have translated it literally from the Chinese copy furnished me by Mr. Komura.

This an interesting document

as

as it was intended by the Yamén and accepted by Mr. Komura as a formal declaration of war. This is the only formal declaration of war by China in modern times. It is unnecessary to call attention to its dignified and courteous tone.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

The Tsungli Yamén to the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires, July 31st 1894.

Enclosure in No. 1913.

The Prince and Ministers of the Tungli Yamên make a communication.

We had long hoped to settle by negotiation, without a rupture of our friendship, the disagreements that existed between China and your country, with reference to the affairs of Corea. On the 25th of July, however, at the seaport of Yashan in Corea, your forces made an attack upon our ships. Hostilities have, therefore, now begun, the treaties between our countries are henceforth void and this Yamên, to its great regret, will, in future, treat of no matters with you.

To Mr. Komura

Chargé d'Affaires of Japan.

The 20th year of Kuang Hsü, 6th Moon 29th day (July 31st 1894)

Dip.

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3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 22 1894

File

No 1914.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 6th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State.

Subject

Blockading of Hwang-pu River

Synopsis

China decides to partially blockade notwithstanding Japan's assurance that she will not attack Shanghai.

One enclosure.

No 1914.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 6th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that, notwithstanding the assurance of the Japanese Government that it would regard Shanghai as outside the sphere of its warlike operations, the Chinese Government has decided to partially close the Hwangpu River at Woosung. A sufficient channel will be left for all

1/914

mercantile

mercantile purposes, which, if necessity requires, may be closed at short notice.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

~ Notice of neutrality of Shanghai clipped from North China Daily News, July 25th, 1894.

Enclosure in No. 1914.

The

North-China Daily News.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, 25TH JULY, 1894.

WE issued early yesterday morning an extra giving the following welcome information :—

"Mr. Hannen, H.M.'s Consul-General, has received a telegram from the British *Chargé d'Affaires* at Tokio, Mr. Paget, announcing that the Japanese Government has undertaken to regard Shanghai as outside the sphere of its warlike operations."

It is very pleasant news to us all here that under no circumstances will the Japanese Government undertake war operations against Shanghai. Very great praise is due to our Foreign Office, to the Japanese Foreign Office, to Mr. Hannen, and to Mr. Paget, British *Chargé d'Affaires* at Tokio, for the promptitude with which this matter has been arranged, when it is remembered that the wires were only put in operation *viâ* London on Sunday afternoon. This decision on the part of the Japanese Government is fixed, and there is no reason whatever to fear that any departure from it will be made.

Dup

Received Sept 22, 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 22 1894
COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

No 1915.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 6th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Protection of foreigners in China.

Synopsis

The Yamên promises to protect merchants and missionaries. Mr. Denby writes the Yamên stating that it is their duty to protect peaceable Japanese.

Three enclosures.

No 1915.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 6th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

On the 3rd instant, I received

1/915 from the Tungli Yamên a despatch, stating that China is at peace with all the woreld except Japan, that she undertakes the protection of missionaries and merchants within her borders, and asking me to inform the merchants and missionaries of American nationality that they

are

are at liberty to pursue their
usual avocations without
anxiety because of the hostilities
being carried on against Japan.

In a circular, dated the 4th
2/1915 instant, I requested the consuls
to bring this announcement
to the notice of the citizens of
the United States within their
jurisdictions.

In making acknowledgement
to the Yamên of the receipt
of this despatch, I considered
it my duty to state to them
3/1915 that the obligation upon the
Chinese authorities to protect
peaceable Japanese, within their
territory, was as great as that
to protect other foreigners.

Any

Any reference to this obligation is pointedly omitted in the despatch referred to. There were in China, before the war, 1017 Japanese residents, while the Chinese in Japan numbered 5540. Interest as well as duty dictate to China the protection of these Japanese. It is certain that outrages against them will lead to retaliation.

There are two places at which attacks upon Japanese were chiefly to be feared, viz. Tientsin and Chefoo. So strong was the feeling against them at the former place that the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires, who left there on the 4th instant, ordered them

to

to leave with him. Not one now remains. I telegraphed yesterday to Chefoo advising all Japanese to leave that port also. Chefoo is a port on the direct line of communication between Corea and Tientsin. In case the Chinese experience a defeat at sea, fugitives will put into this harbor and it would be difficult to secure the safety of the Japanese against them.

The proclamation which I ask the Yamên to issue will be useful at Shanghai, and other places, from which it is not practicable to advise the Japanese to depart.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. The Yamên to Mr. Denby
No. 24, Aug. 3d 1894.
2. Circular from the Legation to the U. S. Consuls, Aug. 4th, 1894.
3. Mr. Denby to the Yamên
No. 27. Aug. 6th 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No 1915.

The Foreign office to Mr Charles Denby Jr.

No 24

Peking August 3d 1894

With reference to the circumstances attending the commencement of hostilities on the part of Japan, the Yamen, acting under the rule laid down in International law to give due information thereof to friendly powers has already addressed a communication to the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States upon the subject which is a matter of record.

With the Exception of Japan, alone, who is at war with her, China and all the other treaty powers are on terms of friendly intercourse as usual.

With

with regard to merchants and —"
missionaries of all —— foreign
countries, resident in China, they
will all be protected as provided
by Treaty, and to this End the
Yamen has telegraphed to the
Viceroy Superintendent of Northern
Trade to wire all the Tartar Generals,
Governor Generals and Governors
of the various Provinces to take
precautionary measures and
issue warning instructions that
the common people must be
ordered not, by mistake, to create
any trouble or disturbance.

The Prince and Ministers begs
that the Chargé d'Affaires of
the United States will instruct
the United States Consuls at the
Treaty ports to inform American
Merchants

merchants and Missionaries
that they are to continue to carry
on the Vocations as usual, and
that on account of the hostilities
with Japan they must not be
in fear and doubt.

A necessary Communication
addressed to

Charles Denby Jr. Esqre

&c, &c, &c,

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Enclosure No 2 in 1915.

Circular

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 4th, 1894.

Thos. R. Jernigan, Esquire,
United States Consul General,
Shanghai.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that this Legation is in receipt of a despatch from the Tsungli Yamên, dated the 3rd instant, stating that the merchants and missionaries of foreign countries, wherever residing in China, will be protected, and that the high provincial authorities have been ordered to issue proclamations warning the people in no manner to disturb them.

The Yamên asks this Legation to inform the American merchants and missionaries that they are at liberty to pursue their avocations as usual and requests them to be under no fear or anxiety because of the hostilities now being carried on against Japan.

You are requested to bring this announcement to the notice of the citizens of the United States within your jurisdiction.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd) Chas. Denby Jr.
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

[Mutatis mutandis to all U.S. Consuls in China]

Enclosure No 3 in No 1915.

Mr. Denby to the Tungli Yamen

No 27. August 6th 1894.

Your Highness
and Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 3rd instant, stating that China is at peace with all the treaty powers except Japan, and asking me to inform the American merchants and missionaries in this country that they may continue to pursue their vocations as usual, without anxiety because of the hostilities now existing with Japan.

While thanking you for your praiseworthy efforts to secure the protection of the citizens of thore countries with which you are at peace, I have the honor to point out to you that it is

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in a greater degree, your duty, in accordance with the precepts of international law and the dictates of humanity, to make every effort to guarantee from molestation or injury peaceable subjects of Japan within your territory. This is all the more important because there are more than five times as many Chinese in Japan as there are Japanese in China. Your Highness and Your Excellencies will readily see that just treatment and protection of the subjects of Japan in in this country will be the surest guarantee of the just treatment and protection of your subjects in Japan.

There are two courses which Your Highness and Your Excellencies may pursue. You may announce that the Japanese will not be protected, and order their departure from the treaty ports,

or

or you may announce that they are at liberty to stay and that you undertake to guarantee their safety.

I strongly recommend you to adopt this latter course and I request that proclamations be immediately posted in all localities where Japanese reside, informing the people that they remain in China with your consent and enjoining that they be in no way interfered with.

I request Your Highness and Your Excellencies to give me an early reply to this despatch, and I avail etc. etc. etc.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 22 1894

File

SEP 22 1894

No 1916.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 7th 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Closing of port of Ningpo

Synopsis

Have advised consul that cannot object thereto.

№ 1916.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 7th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that I received, today, a telegram from Consul Fowler, Ningpo, stating that the Taotai persists in closing the port to all ships.

As Japan, however, has given no pledge not to attack Ningpo, I have telegraphed him in reply that this Legation

cannot

"cannot object to China's
"necessary defensive measures".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
SEP 22 1894

No 1917.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 7th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Detailes of sinking of "Kowshing"

One enclosure.

No 1917.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 7th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a clipping from the Peking and Tientsin Times, of the 4th instant, giving the fullest account yet received of the sinking of the ship "Kowshing", by the Japanese, on the 25th July. ~~5~~

Baron von Hanneken (erroneously reported lost in my despatch No 1899 of the 28th July) was one of the survivors from this

Calastrophe

1
917

catastrophe. His deposition, taken at Chemulpo, confirms the enclosed account. He states, however, that the Japanese sent off a boat to order the "Koiwsking" to follow them. The refusal to do so led to the attack upon her. Before a shot was fired, the Japanese requested all foreigners to leave the ship, but they were restrained by the Chinese from doing so.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Clipping as above.

Enclosure in No 1917.

From the Pekin & Tientsin Times of Aug-4-1894.

The Destruction of the "Kow-shing" Statements of the Survivors.

On Wednesday morning at half-past 10 o'clock, Mr. Detring and Mr. Loh Fêng-luh sat at the Imperial Chinese Admiralty, Tientsin, as agents of His Excellency Li Hung-chang to take the statements of two of the crew and three soldiers who had escaped from the massacre on board the "Kow-shing." There were present the United States, Russian, French and German Consuls, Mr. Edmund Cousins representing the owners of the "Kow-shing," Mr. Cockburn of the British Consulate and others.

Mr. Detring in opening the proceedings said that the Chinese government wishing to have the statements of those saved from on board the "Kow-shing" formally made, had directed them to invite the Consuls of the different nations and those interested in the fate of the people on board the "Kow-shing" to meet and take part in the proceedings. The "Kow-shing" was a British merchant steamer of 1353 tons, chartered by the Chinese government to take troops and arms to Corea on an appeal from the King of Corea to support his government. Under the treaty of 1888 the Chinese government had a right so to send troops to Corea, and it was not expected that the act would lead to hostilities. They were aware that it had done so and to ascertain the circumstances was the object of their intended enquiry. With these few preliminary remarks he would at once to open the proceedings.

PEDRO ORIATE aged 42, born at Manila said: He had been three months in the "Kow-shing." She left Taku bar at 9.30 p.m. on Monday, the 23rd July. Nothing occurred on the voyage. He first saw the islands of the Corean coast at about 8 a.m. on the 24th and soon after sighted the mainland. He first saw a Japanese man-of-war at 9 a.m. She first hoisted a signal to them to stop and then a signal to anchor. After they were anchored she sent a boat, and two officers and a sailor came on board. He saw the officers speak to the captain. He (Oriate) was on the ladder going up to the bridge.

Mr. Cousins said a person standing on the ladder could see and hear what took place on the bridge.

ORIATE (continuing). The Japanese officers spoke to the captain, the pilot and a passenger. (Shown a photograph of Mr. von Hanneken). Did not see him speak to the Japanese, who examined the ship's papers and then returned to the launch. The "Kow-shing" was at anchor. They had not passed any islands. From her first anchoring the steamer had never moved. He did not know that fighting was going on between Chinese and Japanese men-of-war. He saw three Japanese men-of-war. Two left and one remained and sent a launch on board. The men-of-war remained about a mile from the "Kow-shing." He did not see any other boat come. It came a second time. The Japanese spoke to the captain. No one on board the "Kow-shing" fired, not one shot. When the Japanese fired first he has below, but was looking out at the men-of-war. They were all about a mile or less away. They fired from 12.40 to 1.30 when the "Kow-shing" went down. He saw the firing. As soon as the firing began he went forward and stooped below the bulwarks to escape the shot. As soon as he felt the steamer settling down slowly, he climbed the foremast where he was when the French gunboat took him off. He could not say what became of the Europeans there was such a crowd in the water. He believed they jumped into the water, but he did not see them. Some jumped into the water, some into boats which they swamped and went down. There were eight boats on board. Two were so made fast that they would not be launched. He was very frightened and did not see if any boat were destroyed by shot. There was great bloodshed. He was on the mast with four soldiers. There were about 36 on the other mast. There was little sea. He saw no bodies floating about. He was from 1.30 p.m. to 7 next morning on the mast. They saw no more of the Japanese ship. She had two masts and one funnel. She was painted white and was a large ship. He did not know how many men she carried. The French gun-boat took them off about 7 a.m. next day. They sent two boats and saved them all, himself, 42 from the masts, and two in the water, one fireman who was swimming. The "Kow-shing" was about a mile from the island. Mr. von Hanneken was on deck but not on the bridge. The Japanese officers went into the chart room. Mr. von Hanneken could hear what the Japanese officers said to the captain. Did not know if any one escaped by swimming to the island. Did not know if any people were shot in the water. The Japanese used revolving guns. The last time they boarded was at 12 o'clock. Only one Japanese came on board and he said something in English and went back; he was a young man and he had come both times. He was not sure that any soldiers were on deck when the Japanese boarded. [It should be understood that the "Kow-shing's" main-deck was a flush deck from stem to stem only broken by the masts, funnel, sky lights and captain's cabin and chart house, above which was the bridge]. The soldiers were watching the men-of-war when they boarded. The British flag was flying before they sighted the Japanese. The house flag was flying at the main-mast, nothing at the foremast.

TUNG HA HSIN said he was a Canton man of Fung Sun and a fireman on the "Kow-shing." He was 26 years old and had been on board 12 years. At 8 o'clock he was in the engine room. At 9.30 they anchored. He heard a gun and the ship was stopped. At 1.30 he came up and went to the forecastle to wash and get his food. At 1 o'clock he climbed the mast. At 1.15 he swam to the long boat. The Japanese fired at them and eight men in the boat were killed. Forty or more were in that boat, which was sunk. Its rudder had been shot away. He could not swim to shore for the strong current. They stopped firing at 4 o'clock. He judged the time by the sun. It was the small gun boat that fired on their long boat. He was very frightened. He thought the gun boat had three masts. There was a gun boat that fired on his boat and the people swimming, after the "Kow-shing" was sunk. The shot fell like rain among the swimming people. He was picked up by the French gun boat at 6 o'clock next morming. He stuck to the boat all night. He only saw the second mate jump into the water. One boat with ten or more men reached the island. He thought some in that boat were foreigners because they wore bad clothes. He saw them land. He saw Corean junks at a distance. The French gun boat went to the "Kow-shing" but did not go to the island. He did not tell the French gun boat that people were on the island. He did not know if it was inhabited.

CHANG YU-LIN an Anway man, 40, said he was a soldier, a "sho-peh" (captain). He was below when the first shot was fired. He remained below till the vessel was sinking. Two torpedoes broke the vessel's bottom. He saw the torpedoes coming when looking through the port. He was about midships. A number of soldiers were killed by the escaped steam. He saw in the place where he was many people killed. One shot came into his room and he went up. There was no steam in his room. He got hold of the rigging when the vessel went down. He sank with the ship. He cannot swim. He got up the mast by climbing the rigging. Thirty-three were on the mast where he was, and four on the other mast. He saw the quickfiring gun fired from the gunboat at the people swimming. The people on the mast

were not fired at. The Japanese gunboat had two masts. He saw four white and one gray Japanese men-of-war. He saw one man on each mast firing the quick firing gun. (He described the turning of the handle and the whirring sound of the machine gun). He did not know that the Chinese and Japanese men-of-war had fought. They could see nothing of a Chinese man-of-war burning. It was the gunboat that sank the "Kow-shing" that fired at the men in the water. He saw no boats go to the island.

MOU CHING SING, 24, soldier, was amidships below when the firing began. When the vessel was sinking he jumped overboard and got hold of a floating ladder and on getting to the mast got on it and left the ladder. He saw five Japanese ships; only one fired into the "Kow-shing." The Japanese gunboat stayed after the "Kow-shing" sank and fired on the boats and people in the water. Only one steamer fired on the people in the water. None of them tried to save any of the people. They lowered two gigs but took in no people. He did not see what they were doing. The gigs would hold about ten men. He saw a number killed by the steam.

WANG KWI FUNG, a soldier saw Mr. von Hanneken seize a life buoy and jump overboard. He did not see anyone reach the shore. The sea was bad, there was a strong breeze from land. He saw the Japanese fire from the masts on the people swimming. It was the same gun boat that sunk the "Kow-shing" that fired on the people. Three boats put off with loads. The Japanese sank two. All round the ship was like a fog (from the steam).

This concluded the statements of the survivors. The remainder of the men rescued by the French gun boat "Lion" were in the hall. Some of them seemed to have slight wounds and contusions. They were in general able-bodied looking men capable of doing good service. Those who made the statements above recorded did so in a plain straightforward way which was very impressive. In the main facts and most of the details they were in complete accord. The description of the action of the machine guns by two of the survivors was unmistakable and graphic. It may still be hoped that more Europeans have escaped.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ark. L F M
SEP 22 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 22 1894

No. 1918.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 8th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Letter of congratulations on Empress Dowager's birthday.

№ 1918.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 8th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch № 892, of the 21st instant, enclosing a letter of congratulation from the President to the Emperor, on the occasion of the Empress Dowager's 60th birthday.

This letter will be held for presentation at such time as shall appear to be proper.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
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SEP 22 1894

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DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 22 1894

No. 1919.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 8th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the Secretary of State

Ans. Oct. 23/94

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 20 1894

Subject

Japanese spies in China.

Synopsis

Yamên threatens severe treatment of spies. Mr. Denby recommends leniency.

Two enclosures.

No 1919.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 8th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

On the 6th instant, the Prince and Ministers wrote to this Legation, stating that they were informed that Japanese spies had been sent into the interior of China, in disguise, and announced their intention of dealing severely with them if apprehended.

1/919

In replying to this despatch,

2/1919

I considered it my duty to urge the Chinese Government to proceed with moderation and to be influenced rather by motives of humanity than by bitterness towards Japan.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1- The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby

No. 27. Aug. 6th, 1894.

2. Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

No. 29. Aug. 8th, 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1919.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No. 27. August 6th 1894.

As Japan has commenced hostilities, all Japanese merchants and others residing in China, have been placed under the protection of the United States Government. The Prince and Ministers, on receiving some time ago a communication from the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States on the subject, addressed the high officers of the various provinces and also sent a reply to the Chargé d'Affaires.

The Yamên have now received a telegram from the Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade to the effect that some twenty or thirty Japanese have been deported from Tientsin as spies. They have changed their dress and shaved their heads and made their

way

way secretly to various places for the purpose of prying into the condition of our military affairs.

By the rules laid down in international law, paragraphs 627 @ 641, the most severe punishment is meted out to military spies. As relations of friendship have been broken off, and war exists at the present time between China and Japan, merchants and others, natives of Japan, who are peacefully pursuing their vocations, will be protected as provided by treaty, but military spies do not come within the rule of being entitled to protection, and the most severe punishment will be inflicted upon them, as provided by international law.

The Yamên have addressed the Tartar Generals, Governors General and Governors of the various provinces

to

to take strenuous measures to secretly apprehend all who are engaged as spies, and, as in duty bound, the Prince and Ministers send this communication for the information of the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States.

Enclosure 2 in No 1919.

Mr. Denby to the Tungli Yamën.

No 29. August 8th 1894.

Your Highness
and Your Excellencies:

I have the
honor to acknowledge the
receipt of your despatch, of the
6th instant, with reference to the
reported presence of Japanese
spies in the interior of China,
engaged in gaining information
as to the military affairs of
the country.

Should Japanese be found in
the interior under such circumstances
as to excite suspicion as to their
character, it is to be hoped that
a most careful examination will
be made and every opportunity
given them to prove their
innocence, before any action is
taken against them. In such
matters it would be easy to make

mistakes

mistakes whose consequences
would be much to be regretted.

As there are no armed forces
of Japan within Chinese territory
and as the war is being conducted
entirely abroad the infliction
of extreme penalties would be
unjustifiable - I respectfully
suggest to Your Highness and
Your Excellencies that the safety
of China would be sufficiently
guarded and sufficient punishment
inflicted on Japanese found
unlawfully, or in disguise,
within the interior, if they were
taken to the nearest seaport
and transported to their own
country. I hope that Your Highness
and Your Excellencies will be
guided in this matter by humane
motives and not allow your
action to be influenced by feelings
of bitterness towards Japan.

I avail etc.,

(Sig'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Secretary of State
AUG 14

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

From Peking

August 10th, 1894

Gresham,

Washington.

China proposes to exercise right to searching American merchant vessels. Does the Government of the United States concede.

Denby.

Dip

1 Avail Sept 28.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 28 1894

No 1920.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 10-1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP. 22 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Copy to Navy Dept 27.94

Subject

China's defensive measures

Synopsis

The question as to how far China's defensive measures may interfere with neutral commerce.

Two enclosures.

No 1920.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 10th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/1920

enclose, herewith, a despatch addressed to this Legation by the Consul General of the United States, on the 1st instant.

These, and kindred questions, have also been referred to this Legation by the United States consul at Tientsin and Ningpo, and will doubtless arise

elsewhere

elsewhere.

I enclose, herewith, a copy of
2/1920. my reply to Mr. Finnigan, with which the replies to the others conform.

Notwithstanding Art. XXVI of the Treaty of Tientsin, there can be little doubt as to the justice of this Legation's views on the question of blockade. They are based on instructions received, during the Franco-Chinese war, from the Department. The question of the right of search, however, presented some difficulties. I believe that no objection can be made to the examination of American merchant ships in the territorial waters of China

to

to ascertain their neutral character. Such search, in time of peace, is permitted for customs and sanitary purposes. The right of search on the high seas is more uncertain. Such right has never been exercised by China against western powers and many reasons may be urged against it. Before expressing any opinion upon the question, I await your reply to my telegraphic inquiry of yesterday.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1°

1º Mr. Lemigan to Mr. Denby

Nº16 August 1st 1894.

2º Mr. Denby to Mr. Lemigan

Nº316 August 9th 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No 1920.

Mr. Jernigan to Mr. Denby.

No 16. Aug. 1st 1894.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Taotai of Shanghai has addressed to me two communications, under date July 28th and 29th respectively, on the subject of new regulations which the Chinese Government proposes to enforce against all ships entering the port of Woosung (Shanghai).

I am informed by the Taotai that it is the purpose of his government to apply the regulations to naval and merchant ships alike, and the import of the regulations is that all ships approaching the port after 7 p. m. must anchor till the following morning and it also appears that the regulations may easily be

interpreted

interpreted to give the Chinese authorities the right to enter all ships to satisfy them of their neutral character.

In my reply to the Taotai, I plainly informed him that I had no authority to assent to any regulation of his government that would question, by implication, the neutrality and friendship of the United States, as that would impeach the honor of our flag, and that I expressly dissented from the regulations applying to the warships of the United States, and that I would expect such ships to enter and leave the port of Wooung as heretofore. I shall communicate to the Commander of the United States Naval Squadron in Asiatic waters the nature of the said regulations and my answer.

As to the merchant ships of the United States, I informed the

Taotai

Taotai that I would advise
the commanders to offer no
unreasonable impediment to the
civil execution of the regulations,
at the same time reminding
the Taotai that such advice
was given in view of the existing
relations between China and
Japan and the neutral attitude
of the United States.

In this connection, I may refer
to a despatch received this morning
from the United States consul at
Ningpo, on the the subject of new
regulations which the Chinese
authorities propose to enforce at that
port. The consul sends to you
through me a despatch on this
subject enclosing a copy of the
communication addressed to
him by the Chinese authorities
at Ningpo, both of which are
self-explanatory.

I am also informed by the
consul that the lights at the

light.

lighthouses at Tiger and Square Islands, on the coast of Ningpo, have been discontinued by the Chinese Government.

I should be glad to be advised by you on all these kindred subjects that are likely to arise under existing circumstances. The wires, as you know, are not working, and I beg to submit the importance of not allowing the neutrality of our flag to be brought into question in any event.

I am, etc

(Sgd) T. R. Jernigan,
Consul General.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1920.

Mr. Denby to Mr. Jernigan.

No. 316. August 9th, 1894.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 16, of the 1st instant, with reference to the rules which it is proposed to enforce against ships entering Woosung.

These rules involve two propositions. Firstly all ships approaching the port after 7 o'clock p. m., must anchor until the following morning. To this rule I am of opinion that we can offer no objection whether as applied to men-of-war or merchantmen. It seems a reasonable defensive measure taken by a sovereign state in its own territory in time of war.

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The right of search, which is the second feature of the rules referred to, is more uncertain. Under no circumstances could such a right be conceded or permitted as to public vessels of the United States. As to merchant vessels the question is more in doubt. As far as this Legation is aware, the right of search has never been exercised against American merchant ships by any Oriental power. This, however, a right so well known to international law that it would be difficult to offer objections to it. Perhaps the best course would be, while not formally recognizing such a right on the part of China, to instruct American vessels to offer no unreasonable impediment to its proper exercise.

I have also received Mr. Fowler's despatch from Ningpo to which you refer. × × ×

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I believe it to be within the proper exercise of China's power to extinguish the lights in her lighthouses when she thinks they may serve to facilitate a proposed attack.

As to the blockading of her ports by China, our Government has held that "this may be done by China for necessary defence". The blockade of Shanghai would be unjustifiable because Japan has formally undertaken to consider Shanghai and the approaches thereto as beyond the sphere of her warlike operations. In a telegram dated Jan. 22nd 1884, Mr. Frelinghuysen instructed Mr. Young that "should France agree "absolutely and not conditionally "to make no attack on the treaty "ports, a protest against their "obstruction will be made to China "by this Government".

It would seem proper, therefore,

to

to object to the obstruction of any port which Japan had agreed not to attack but not to the obstruction of those which could justly be considered in danger.

Yours etc.,

(s'g'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé etc.

Secretary of State
AUG 14 1894

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

From Peking

August 11, 1894.

Gresham

Washington.

Japanese bombarded Wei-Hai-Wei yesterday.

Blockade Tien-Tsin feared.

Denby.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack & File
SEP 22 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
SEP 22 1894

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

No 1921.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 11th 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Exemption of merchant shipping from attack.

Synopsis

The Chinese consent to release a captured Japanese barque and propose to Japan to exempt all merchant vessels from attack.

No 1921.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 11th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that the United States Consul at Tientsin has reported to me that, on the 2nd instant, a Japanese barque, the Tenkio Maru, arrived at Taku and was at once seized by the Chinese. She is a ship of 1200 tons, having a crew of 25 Japanese, and was loaded with

with railway sleepers and timber consigned to the Chinese Railway Company, but hypothecated to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for about 12000 taels.

Upon being informed of this seizure, Mr. Read, United States Consul at Tientsin, expressed to the Viceroy a hope that he would see his way to release this ship. On the 4th instant, Mr. Read telegraphed to me that the "Chinese authorities "will release Tenkio Maru" and asked if Japan would consent to refrain from molesting

molesting Chinese merchant vessels. I at once (Aug. 5th) telegraphed to the United States Minister at Tokio as follows:

"Chinese have captured "Japanese barque, have consented "to allow to discharge cargo "and to depart. Chinese Government "wishes to know if Japan will "refrain from molesting Chinese "merchant vessels".

On the 6th instant, Mr. Dun replied to this as follows:

"Japanese Government would "be willing to consent to exempt "Chinese ships from capture, "except ships carrying troops, or "other contraband of war, or

attempting

"attempting to break blockade,
"provided Chinese Government
"guarantees like immunity
"in favor of private Japanese
"ships".

Both the Tungli Yamên and the Viceroy Li expressed themselves as prepared to accept these terms. They wish, however, to have a statement from Japan as to what will be considered contraband of war. Upon receipt of this statement the negotiations will probably be brought to a favorable conclusion.

In view of the fact that the United States have long favored the exemption from attack of private property on the

the sea, I urged the Ministers of the Yamên to enter into such an agreement as proposed. The present war presents few difficulties for the application of this exemption. The neutral shipping engaged in the carrying trade of China is so great that every ship flying the Chinese flag might be destroyed, without seriously deranging commerce, or having any practical influence on the result of the war. The same remarks apply almost as well to Japan. As, therefore, attacks upon the merchant vessels of one another would be useless in bringing the war to

a

a conclusion and would be a needless interference with peaceful private enterprise, it seems to be desirable that the two powers should be encouraged to effectively exempt such vessels from attack.

On the 5th instant, I telegraphed you as follows:

"China proposes to Japan "mutually to abstain from molesting "merchant vessels. Have telegraphed "the United States Minister to "Japan".

Should the proposed arrangement be definitely concluded, I shall promptly advise you.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Dip

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ack. & File
SEP 22 1894

File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
SEP 22 1894

No 1922.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 12th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
SEP 22 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Newspaper comment on the war

Synopsis

Encloses North China Daily News' translation of the Emperor's declaration of war and editorial thereon.

Two enclosures.

№ 1922.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 12th, 1894.

To the Honorable
Walter Q. Gresham,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my despatch № 1911, of the 5th August, I had the honor to enclose a manuscript translation of the Emperor's edict, of August 1st, declaring war against Japan.

I now enclose the North China Daily News' version 1/1922 thereof and editorial comment 2/1922 thereon.

H

In my despatch No. 1917 of the 7th instant, I refer to the date of the sinking of the Kowshing as July 24th; I respectfully request that this be changed to July 25th, the correct date.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. Declaration of War clipped from the North China Daily News, Aug 3rd 1894.
2. Editorial on above from the same paper of Aug. 4th, 1894.

Enclosure 1 in No 1922.

The
North-China Daily News.
IMPARTIAL NOT [illegible]
SHANGHAI, 3RD AUGUST, 1894.

THE WAR.

DECLARATION OF WAR BY THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.

(FROM OUR NATIVE CORRESPONDENT.)

Peking, 1st August, 5 p.m.

The following edict was issued to-day by the Throne :—

Corea has been our tributary for the past two hundred odd years. She has given us tribute all this time, which is a matter known to the world. For the past dozen or so years Corea has been troubled by repeated insurrections, and we in sympathy with our small tributary have as repeatedly sent succour to her aid, eventually placing a Resident in her capital to protect Corea's interests. In the 4th moon (May) of this year another rebellion was begun in Corea and the King repeatedly asked again for aid from us to put down the rebellion. We then ordered Li Hung-chang to send troops to Corea, and they having barely reached Yashan the rebels immediately scattered. But the *Wojên* (an ancient name for Japanese, expressive of contempt), without any cause whatever, suddenly sent their troops to Corea, and entered Seoul, the capital of Corea, re-inforcing them constantly until they have exceeded ten thousand men. In the meantime the Japanese forced the Corean King to change his system of government, showing a disposition every way of bullying the Coreans. It was found a difficult matter to reason with the *Wojên*. Although we have been in the habit of assisting our tributaries we have never interfered with their internal government. Japan's treaty with Corea was as one country with another ; there is no law for sending large armies to bully a country in this way, and compel it to change its system of government The various Powers are united in condemning the conduct of the Japanese, and can give no reasonable name to the army she now has in Corea. Nor has Japan been amenable to reason, nor would she listen to the exhortation to withdraw her troops and confer amicably upon what should be done in Corea. On the contrary, Japan has shown herself bellicose without regard to appearances, and has been increasing her forces there. Her conduct alarmed the people of Corea as well as our merchants there and so we sent more troops over to protect them. Judge of our surprise then when, half-way to Corea, a number of the *Wojên* ships suddenly appeared and taking advantage of our unpreparedness opened fire upon our transports at a spot on the seacoast near Yashan, and damaged them, thus causing us to suffer from their treacherous conduct which could not be foretold by us. As Japan has violated the treaties and not observed international laws, and is now running rampant with her false and treacherous actions, commencing hostilities herself, and laying herself open to condemnation by the various Powers at large, we therefore desire to make it known to the world that we have always followed the paths of philanthropy, and perfect justice throughout the whole complications, while the *Wojên* on the other hand have broken all the laws of nations and treaties which it passes our patience to bear with. Hence we command Li Hung-chang to give strict orders to our various armies to hasten with all speed to root the *Wojên* out of their lairs. He is to send successive armies of valiant men to Corea in order to save the Coreans from the dust of bondage. We also command the Manchu Generals, Viceroys, and Governors of the Maritime Provinces, as well as the Commanders-in-Chief of the various armies, to prepare for war and to make every effort to fire on the *Wojên* ships if they come into our ports, and utterly destroy them. We exhort our Generals to refrain from the least laxity in obeying our commands in order to avoid severe punishment at our hands. Let all know this Edict as if addressed to themselves individually. Respect this !

Enclosure 2 in No 1922.

The
North-China Daily News.
IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.
SHANGHAI, 4TH AUGUST, 1894.

THE DECLARATION OF WAR.

AFTER some days of actual hostilities both by land and sea, China and Japan declared war on each other on the 1st of August, which happens to be the first day of the seventh moon in the Chinese calendar. Thus are disappointed the hopes of those who believed up to the last that there would be no war; they knew that China did not want war, and they hoped that the combined influence of the Powers would suffice to persuade Japan to negotiate. Japan, however, has been determined on war from the very first; in fact, there is reason to think that the war now begun was planned in Japan many months ago; as soon as it became evident that there would be domestic troubles in Japan—owing to the strength of the opposition in the country to the present clan government—unless the attention of the people could be diverted by a foreign war. It is an old device of unpopular governments.

We published yesterday the text of the Emperor of China's Declaration, and it is a dignified document, in which even the critical historian will find little to take exception to. That Corea has been tributary to China since the Manchus gained the throne at Peking, and long before, is certain; and the course of affairs which led up to the present situation in Corea is very fairly stated. The whole might have been condensed into the brief statement that Japan had made up her mind to go to war with China unless the latter withdrew from Corea altogether, a condition which the dignity of China could not accept. There is no impartial person who can deny that the war has been forced on China by Japan.

Japan has, however, we are told, appended to her Declaration of War the reasons which have obliged Japan to resort to the *ultima ratio regum*. The Mikado declares that all Japan's efforts to bring about an amicable settlement of her dispute with China have failed, that China has refused Japan's offer to join her in introducing reforms into Corea, and that therefore nothing is left but war. The emptiness of this grievance is obvious at once: Japan has no more right to insist on forcing reforms on Corea, than Russia has, for instance, to insist on forcing reforms on Japan. That reforms are very much wanted in Corea, goes without saying; but we are discussing the question of right. That the Japanese knew that their proceedings would not bear the strong light of truth is shown by the inspired telegram that was sent from Tokio to the London *Times* on the 6th of June, before the first Chinese soldier had been landed in Corea, and before any layman in China or Japan knew that Japan was sending any troops. It was in the following terms:—

"In view of the grave disturbance in Corea, a body of troops has been sent from here for the protection of the Japanese Legation and Japanese Consulates and residents there in accordance with former treaties concluded by Japan with China and Corea. Due notice has been given to China according to the treaty."

The intention of this telegram is obvious. The people at home were to be promptly assured that Japan had no designs on the peace of the East, but was merely sending a body of troops for the protection of her Legation and Consulates, which nobody was attacking.

The *Japan Mail* traversed recently our statement made in June last that "nothing could have been more correct of late years than the attitude of the Viceroy Li and the Resident Yuan towards both Corea and Japan;" but we find with much satisfaction in the editorial column of the *Mail* of the 26th of July, a complete vindication of the Viceroy Li, whose mouthpiece the Resident Yuan has always been. It is pointed out that ever since Corea was opened, the management of China's relations with that country has been entrusted to the Viceroy. "So autocratic has the Viceroy's power been in this respect, that in China he is commonly spoken of as the ruling king of Corea. . . . The Viceroy's management of Corean affairs invites strong criticism from a Western point of view. But when we remember what a huge mass of prejudice and conservatism the Viceroy has to move in order to admit a ray of really progressive civilisation into any sphere of his administration, we find a thousand extenuations of the apparently invertebrate and shuffling policy pursued by him in the peninsula. . . . *Of the Viceroy's conduct towards her, Japan has certainly no reason to complain.* He has always been friendly, always appreciative, and always liberal." The words which we have italicised confirm what we wrote; but they make it still more difficult for Japan to justify her action in going to war. The Viceroy Li is, the *Mail* allows, the Government of China as far as Corea is concerned. But the Viceroy Li's conduct towards Japan has been irreproachable; how then is Japan's attack on China justifiable?

C

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU. OCT 2 1894

Secretary of State. OCT 2

No 1923. Telegraphic Cipher

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 13th, 1894.

OCT 1 1894 RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ack'd 3rd Oct. '94. M
Copy to Navy Dept. 27.94

Subject

Weihaiwei bombarded.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of 11th instant.

Partial closure of the Pei-ho and removal of lights.

Two enclosures.

No 1923.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 13th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my telegram of the 11th instant as follows:

"Japanese bombarded ~~off~~ Wei-
"hai-wei yesterday blockade
"Tientsin feared."

It seems that, on the 10th instant, a fleet of twenty one Japanese ships appeared at Wei-hai-wei, one of China's principal naval

stations

stations on the coast of Shantung east of Chefoo, and began to bombard the forts. It is reported that forty shells were fired but as they fell short the Japanese ships withdrew. From Wei-hai-wei they proceeded to Port Arthur, another naval station and dockyard north of Tientsin. Here there was further bombardment, the effect of which is unknown. The Japanese and Chinese fleets did not meet, as the latter was off the coast of Corea.

The proximity of the Japanese fleet caused great uneasiness at Tientsin. It has been decided to put a barrier across

the

the mouth of the Peiho and to remove the lights which have hitherto marked the approach to Taku. I enclose, herewith, customs notifications to that effect.

Much anxiety is felt among the foreigners at Tientsin for their own safety. If the Japanese card and defeat the Chinese, the routed soldiers will, it is feared, attack the settlement. The "Lion", a small French gunboat, is in the river but has not reached Tientsin, and the German gunboat "Iltis" may be ordered thither. The Americans continue their urgent request for the presence of an American

ship

ship.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

Customs notices to mariners

as above.

Enclosure 1 in No. 1923.

TIENTSIN DISTRICT.

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS:—No. 59.

ENTRANCE TO PEI-HO RIVER.

NOTICE has been received from the Territorial Authorities in charge of the Defenses that a Floating Barrier will be thrown accross the mouth of the river every evening, and that no vessels will be allowed to enter or leave after 6 o'clock at night until daylight next morning.

Warning is given that it is dangerous for vessels to attempt to cross the Taku Bar at night.

A. VERE HAVERS,

Acting Harbour Master.

Approved:

DETRING,

Commissioner of Customs.

CUSTOM HOUSE,

TIENTSIN, *10th August, 1894.*

Enclosure 2 in No 1923.

TIENTSIN DISTRICT.

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS:—No. 60.

TEMPORARY DISCONTINUENCE OF LIGHT ON TSAO-FEI-TIN ISLAND ("SHA-LIU-TIN"), AND REMOVAL OF LIGHT-SHIP "TAKU," AND BUOYS AND BEACONS MARKING THE BAR AND CHANNEL.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Light-ship "Taku" has been temporarily removed, and that the exhibition of the Light on Tsao-fei-tin Island ("Sha-liu-tin") has been temporarily discontinued.

NOTICE is further given that the Buoys and Beacons marking the Taku Bar and Entrance to the Pei-ho are now in course of removal.

A. VERE HAVERS,
Acting Harbour Master.

Approved:

DETRING,
Commissioner of Customs.

CUSTOM HOUSE,
TIENTSIN, *11th August, 1894.*

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ark Fil
OCT 1 1894

File.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 1 1894

No 1924.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 13th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

The sinking of the "Kowshing"

Synopsis

Baron von Hanneken's sworn statement concerning that event enclosed, together with what purports to be the captain's account thereof.

Two enclosures.

No 1924.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 13th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/1924 enclose, herewith, a copy of Baron von Hanneken's sworn statement as to the sinking of the British ship "Kowshing", on the 25th July last, in the Corean Archipelago. It is clipped from the Peking and Tientsin Times of the 11th instant. I have compared it with the

signed

signed original and find it correct.

2/1924 I enclose, also, what purports to be an official account of the same event, given to the North China Daily News by the Japanese Consul General at Shanghai, and published on the 3rd instant.

It is noticeable that both these accounts agree in stating that the Chinese soldiers in the sinking ship fired upon their comrades swimming in the water. Baron von Hanneken testifies that the Japanese fired at the Chinese in the water and on the sinking ship.

The mutinous conduct of their

their troops on this occasion has induced the Chinese, in shipping later contingents, to deprive them of their arms, on embarcation, and to keep them locked up out of reach.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

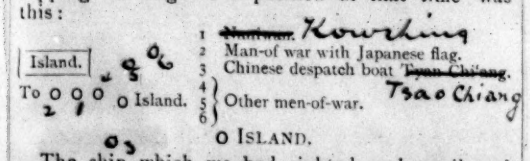
1. Clipping as above from Peking and Tientsin Times of 11th August.
2. Clipping as above from North China Daily News of 3rd August.

Enclosure 1 in No 1924.

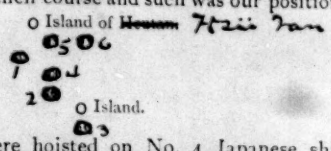
Mr. von Hanneken's Statement.

We have been favoured with the following copy of the affidavet sworn by Mr. von Hanneken before the British Consul at Chemulpo:—

The s.s. "Kow-shing" left Taku on the 23rd July with a number of soldiers all told 1,220 men and 12 guns besides rifles ammunition, &c. She arrived in the morning of the 25th in sight of the island ~~At~~ of ~~in~~ the Corean Archipelago outside the ~~Prieur Servid~~ Gulf. At this time she sighted a big man-of-war on her port bow. This man-of-war was moving very fast towards the west, about the direction of Port Arthur. She looked to me like the Cheng'Ping-yuan type. She passed us on a great distance and we did not see any more of her. At about 7 o'clock we sighted on our starboard bow a vessel under sail bound in the direction of Chemulpo, so that she would have had to cross our bow or stern if she kept on her course for Loan-shan. At about 8 o'clock we sighted a large man-of-war coming out from behind the island of Heutan, and some ten minutes later we saw first one, then two, altogether three, more big ships coming out from behind the same island. All these vessels were of large iron-clad type, as far as we could make out. At about 9 o'clock we made out on the most forward vessel the Japanese flag, above which was flying a white flag. She moved rapidly towards us and upon passing us she saluted us by dipping her flag. Our position at that time was this:



The ship which we had sighted under sail and which had turned out to be the Tian Chi'ang, had meanwhile lowered sail and turned backward in the direction of Wai-hai-wei. If we had been somewhat uneasy about this large display of the Japanese fleet, we were quite reassured about their peaceful intentions towards us, when the passing ship dipped her flag to us, and we thought that they were chasing the Tian Chi'ang. The ships Nos. 4, 5 and 6, which had also turned out to be Japanese men-of-war, had been following their course and such was our position:



when signals were hoisted on No. 4 Japanese ship and two blank shots told us to stop and drop anchor. We did so. The next signal was "stop where you are or take the consequences." No. 4 Japanese ship then returned to port and approached No. 5, which was with No. 6 together moving on. All three ships moved on probably to semaphore to each other, being puzzled what to do after recognising the British flag on a ship which was evidently a Chinese transport. The No. 4 ship then turned up to us with all her guns run out and pointed at our ship and stopped at a distance of about a quarter of a mile. We saw a boat leave and coming towards us. The commander of the Chinese troops on board told me, and asked me to tell the captain they would rather go down on the spot than he made prisoners, They were very excited and I had difficulty to appease them, and to impress on them that it was utterly necessary to keep order on board as long as parlleying was going on, I told Captain Galsworthy what the intentions of the commander were. The Japanese boat arrived and several officers came on board. The men in the boat were armed with rifles and sabres. The Japanese officers repaired to the captain's cabin; he had to show his papers, &c., and to prove that he really was in charge of a British vessel. He then was curtly told to follow the Japanese man-of-war. I was not present at their interview. I had told the captain to send for me if need was. I was busy keeping the commander and soldiers at peace. We had arranged (Capt. Galsworthy and I) before the Japanese boat came alongside, that he should insist on being allowed to return to Taku, the port where we started from, since we had started from there before any declaration of war. It seems that the Japanese parlementaire did not give any time to Capt. Galsworthy to insist on anything, when he told him to follow the Japanese man-of-war, and neither did I hear of this order before the Japanese officer had left the ship. When, then, Capt. Galsworthy told the result of the parley, which I interpreted to the Chinese commanders there was a great uproar amongst them and their soldiers. They menaced with swords and rifles captain and crew and all Europeans on board, in case the captain dared to get up his anchor. Again I had to do my utmost to appease their turmoil and then I told the captain to hoist a signal for the parlimentaire boat to come back. She came and this time I myself went to the gangway to speak with the Japanese officers. We could not risk to let them come on board, because soldiers with rifles and swords were flocking about and surely would have made short business of them, if they had shown any signs of our giving in to their request. I told the Japanese officers who arrived on the gangway ladder with their right hand to the sword hilt: "The captain's hands are bound; he is not able to obey your order; the soldiers on board would not allow him to do so. Commanders and soldiers insist to be allowed to return to the port where they started from." The captain said: "I think that this is a just and fair request even if war should be already declared, considering that we started in time of peace." I made sure that the parlimentaire understood me. They left saying they would refer the matter to their captain. After the boat had arrived at the Japanese man-of-war, we had to wait some time for an answer. At last the signal was hoisted. "Quit the ship as soon as possible." This could only be meant for the Europeans and crew, but there was no chance and perhaps no intention to follow this advice. The Chinese soldiers had taken charge of every davit. Capt. Galsworthy then hoisted the signal: "We are not allowed." The only answer which we got was an answering pennant. Then we saw the Japanese man-of-war moving and coming around leaving us quite at a miss about her intentions. She came around and when she was at a distance of about 150 mètres, exactly alongside of our port side, she stopped. I saw a torpedo leaving from her torpedo port and immediately afterwards all six guns opened fire. They discharged their guns once before the torpedo arrived at its aim; it hit the ship midships, probably exactly at her coal bunkers. The day became night and coal splinters and water were filling the air. I believe we then all jumped and swam. When swimming I saw the ship going down. She went stern first. During this the firing continued, which was bravely answered with rifles by the poor wretches who knew they had no chance in trying to swim. I saw a Japanese boat, heavily armed, with men. I thought they were coming to the rescue, but I was sadly mistaken. They fired into the men on board the sinking ship. I do not know what their purpose was in doing so. The fact is that the swimming men were fired at from the Japanese man-of-war and from the sinking ship, the men on board the latter probably having the savage idea that if they had to die, their brothers shall not live either. The "Kow-shing" went down entirely after about half an hour or less, from the time when the torpedo was fired. There would have been plenty of chance for her to try for a better fate. By slipping her chain when she had been told to stay where she was or to take the consequences, and again by having recourse to a *ruse*, showing intentions to carry out the order of the Japanese man-of-war and running in to the island. This had all been suggested at the proper time. But the perfect confidence of the captain and officers in the protection of the ship against any warlike undertakings, by the fact of her being a British vessel, flying the British flag sealed her fate, and I am grieved to say also the fate of officers crew and soldiers of which, as much as I know till now only about 170 men saved their lives by swimming. So far I do not know of any other European who reached the shore.

(*Signed*) CONSTANTIN VON HANNEKEN.

Sworn before me the 28th day of July, 1894.

(*Signed*) W. H. WILKINSON,
H.B.M. Consul, Chemulpo.

Enclosure 2 in No 1924.

North-China Daily News

EXTRA.

SHANGHAI, 3RD AUGUST, 1894.

THE SINKING OF THE *KOWSHING*.

We have received the following from Mr. Okoshi, the Consul-General for Japan:

The following is the summary of affidavits signed by the captain and chief officer of *Kowshing*:—

Kowshing, the British steamer chartered by the Chinese Government, left Taku on the 23rd July with 1,100 Chinese soldiers on board; she was bound for Yashan for the express purpose of landing troops there. *Naniwa* signalled her to stop, to which she obeyed, but as *Naniwa* was steaming away, *Kowshing* signalled: "Am I to proceed?" *Naniwa* answered: "Heave to or take consequences" (This was not meant for her, but for Chinese man-of-war flying the Japanese flag and white flag). *Naniwa* sent on board *Kowshing* an officer to see ship's papers, and among other questions he asked if she will follow *Naniwa*. The captain answered: "We are in your power." The officer returned, but the boat was again sent with the request to communicate with the captain personally; then the captain told the officer that Chinese General does not allow him to follow *Naniwa*. The officer having listened to all that was said to him returned to *Naniwa*; the latter then signalled to the captain to quit the ship immediately, but he returned signal by saying that he is not allowed to leave *Kowshing*. Then *Naniwa* [illegible]ing hoisted red flag at the fore[illegible] hoist once more hoisted signal "to [illegible]ately." The captain warned [illegible] and other Europeans to be on [illegible]er a while *Naniwa* sent torp[illegible]fired. Then captain with several [illegible]mped overboard and while in the [illegible] Chinese soldiers on board *Kowshing* kept firing at the captain and others, and eventually he was picked up by the boat of *Naniwa* on board of which every kindness was shown to him and chief officer who was also picked up. The captain states that while on board *Kowshing* his life was threatened by the Chinese General, when he attempted to follow *Naniwa* or to leave the ship. The chief officer adds that the object of second visit of a Japanese officer was for giving facility to Europeans to be transferred on board *Naniwa* before firing began, but unfortunately the good will, on the part of the Japanese officers, was frustrated by the Chinese.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 2 1894
Secretary of State.
OCT 7

Sep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 14. 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Acd. 3d Oct. 9 a. m

Subject

Asks leave of absence.

Sep.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 14. 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to request leave of absence with permission to return to the United States. If granted, I propose to avail of this leave after the return of the Minister, at some time during the winter or next spring when the affairs of the Legation will permit.

)

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

COPIED, FOREIGN RELATONS.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Ark - File
OCT 1 1894

OCT 1 1894

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED.

No 1925.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 14, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Assault on Japanese at Tongku

Synopsis

Chinese soldiers forcibly remove Japanese passengers from British ship "Chungking" at Tongku. Viceroy Li expresses regret for the violence offered, promises punishment of soldiers and restoration stolen goods.

One enclosure.

No 1925.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 11th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, at 1.30 A.M. on the 2nd instant the British ship "Chungking", trading between Tientsin and Shanghai, was boarded at Tongku, a coal wharf on the Peiho below Tientsin, by armed Chinese soldiers, some fifty in number, and all the Japanese passengers forcibly

forcibly removed therefrom.
There Japanese consisted of
about twenty four women,
one man and the wife and
children of the Japanese consul
at Tientsin. The wife and
children of the consul were,
fortunately, not seriously
molested. The others were
bound, hand and foot, and
removed from the ship, the
soldiers asserting that they
were acting under orders.
After being left upon the
wharf for a time, they were
unbound and confined in a
warehouse. At 5 o'clock in the
morning, a superior Chinese
officer arriving on the scene,

they

they were replaced on board the ship, having been, however, robbed of about $600 in money besides some other property.

This disgraceful incident was at once reported to this Legation by Consul Read, but the departure of the ship immediately after the event has rendered it difficult to obtain a detailed account thereof. An attempt was made to get a statement from the Japanese passengers at Chefoo, through our consular agent, but they preferred to make such a statement at Shanghai. I enclose,* herewith, a clipping from the Shanghai Mercury of the

1/925

* Enclosure not printed

the 7th instant, giving the fullest account of the affair yet at hand.

Upon receipt of Consul Read's report, I wrote him requesting him to obtain from the Viceroy — whose soldiers were the aggressors — an expression of regret at the unwarranted attack on defenceless Japanese and particularly for the violence threatened, though not executed, against the Japanese consul's wife. He was also instructed to induce the Viceroy, if possible, to restore the money and property of which these people were robbed.

The Viceroy's attitude was perfectly satisfactory. He expressed great

great grief at the assault,
which he completely disavowed,
and he expressed his apologies
for the affront offered to the
wife of the consul. He promised
to punish the guilty parties
and to recover the stolen goods.
He further authorized me to
convey to you this expression
of his sentiments.

As soon as certified
statements of the losses of the
Japanese can be procured, they
will be submitted by Mr. Read
to the viceroy and there will
end all connection of this Legation
with the affair. The British
authorities have energetically
taken up the matter, in so far
as

as it concerns the violation of the neutrality of their flag, and the Chinese authorities are prepared to make every concession to their demands.

United States Minister Denn, on the 7th instant, telegraphed me with reference to this affair as follows:

"Japanese consul and other "Japanese from Tientsin "attacked, while on British "vessel, by Chinese soldiers, "at Tongku. Consul will "send particulars. You are "requested to investigate".

I received this telegram on the 8th instant and replied at once as follows:

"The

"The viceroy expresses grief
"affair Foreign promises
"to punish guilty and
"recover stolen property.
"Japanese consul not aboard;
"no one seriously injured."

In compliance with the request to investigate, I have taken steps to obtain sworn statements of the affair from the captain of the ship and several foreign passengers, which will be forwarded to our minister at Tokyo.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Enclosure:

Clipping from the Shanghai Mercury - Aug. 7th 1894.

Enclosure in No 1925

Clipping fr. Shanghai Mercury Aug. 7. 1894

Omit

BRUTALITY OF THE CHINESE IN TIENTSIN.

The s.s. *Chungking* reports that, whilst alongside the Tongku Coal Wharf in the River Peiho, having her cargo on board, and both European and Chinese passengers, including the wife of the Japanese Consul from Tientsin and about twenty-five other Japanese, all, with one exception, females, was boarded between 1.30 and 2 a.m. on the 2nd August, by some 50 Chinese soldiers, armed with rifles with fixed bayonets and drawn swords (evidently of native manufacture). These took complete charge of the ship without warning, and with much shouting, commenced pulling all the Japanese ashore, many by the hair of their heads, and striking them with the butt ends of their rifles in a most brutal manner. They were then tied hand and foot, and left lying on the Wharf, whilst the soldiers, who were commanded by a man with a button (evidently a petty mandarin) who appeared to have no control over them, continued the search.

The Europeans, both passengers and crew, amongst the former being two ladies, had their berths entered, and searched, and it took some trouble to convince the searchers that two young children (French) were not Japanese. One of the children of the Japanese Consul was taken away, but shortly after returned, together with its amah, to the Consul's wife, who was not touched, but *only* robbed!!

A student of the Consular service (Japanese) was pricked in the back with a sword and thrown violently down, bound hand and foot, then, whilst in this state, cast bodily from the ship's gang-way on to the wooden wharf—a height of some 10 feet.

These Braves then fired a volley in the air, either as a signal, or to frighten the people on board.

The Europeans were informed they would not be molested, but at the same time, they pointed their swords in the faces of some of them, whilst searching their rooms. The ships's lamps were used in the search. Then the officer in charge wished the ship's officers to see if anything was missing from the ship. There were several of the searchers dressed like ordinary coolies, some stripped to the waist and armed with rusty swords; they were the men who so brutally treated the women, those in uniform acting more as sentries, and not appearing to take much interest in the proceedings. The rougher portion came into the saloon and ordered liquors and cigars in a very insolent manner.

They stated that their authority for searching the ship was an order from Li-Hung-chang.

At about 2 a.m., another, and apparently a higher official appeared on the scene. He had the women unbound and moved further along the wharf, and at about 2 30 a.m. marched them all into a godown. This official stayed on board for some time, taking an inventory of all the baggage of the Japanese, which he ordered to be put down the ship's hold. Two Turks (deck passengers), were also taken on shore.

The chief of the party said, through an interpreter (the Captain's boy) that he intended to have asked the Captain permission to search the ship, but he did not. The whole affair was more like a raid for spoil, with violence. The prisoners were returned to the ship at 5 a.m. the same day, and the Captain was advised to take his ship down river for fear of the populace from the Tongku Village.

There were two Chinese saloon passengers, supposed to be officials who were so frightened that they left the ship at about 5 a.m.

The Japanese Consul's wife had from $200 to $250 stolen; the other women had rings pulled from their fingers, and keys and money taken off their persons. Their luggage, as far as we know, was not touched. The ship lost one revolver and two lamps.

The Japanese' wrists and arms had a shocking appearance in the morning, having been bound with a sort of bamboo fibre, and one elderly woman had several nasty bruises on the face, the others complaining of stiff and sore bodies.

From this report it will be seen that for savageness and breach of all International Rules, this is fully on a par with the worst that has been said about the *Kowshing*. To drag poor women and children along by their hair, and strike them with the butts of their guns, stamps the perpetrators of this outrage as brutes, pure and simple. And what a light it throws on the manner in which the Chinese safeguard the sanctity of the person of the representatives of another country, that no precautions were taken to secure the safety of the Japanese Consul at Tientsin. This leaves entirely out of the question the further outrage to the British flag, in the forcible invasion of a British ship by an armed force in charge of an officer, who stated that he was acting under direct orders from Li Hung-chang himself. This we can leave the Authorities themselves to settle.

No 1926.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 14th, 1894.

—Mr. Charles Denby Jr.—

to the

—Secretary of State.—

—Subject—

Enclosing Telegram account

from July 3d 1894, to August 2d 1894.

No 1926. One enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 14th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to Enclose a statement of the account for telegrams of this Legation from July 2nd 1894 to August 2d, 1894, against which I have this day drawn on you for the amount of same, — $210.85 —

1926.

I hope my draft will be duly honored upon presentation.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Obdient Servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

T. M.

Enclosure: Statement as above.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS.

No 1927.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 14. 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the Secretary of State.

Ack. Oct. 22/94

Subject

Treatment of Japanese spies

Synopsis

Mr. Denby urges the Yamên to deal with them leniently.

No 1927.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 14. 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my despatch No 1919, of the 8th instant, I enclosed a copy of a despatch from the Yamên, with reference to the treatment of Japanese spies seized in China, and a copy of my reply thereto, in which I recommended that such spies be punished by being transported to Japan.

Under

Under date of the 12th instant, the Yamên writes, saying that the suggested punishment seems inadequate and that China will be obliged to act more severely for her own defense. The Ministers renew their promise of protection of peaceable Japanese and assert that they are not influenced by any feelings of bitterness toward Japan.

My motive in counseling leniency is to prevent conviction on insufficient evidence and to prevent unnecessarily cruel treatment of any Japanese, really guilty, who may be seized. This

sentiment

sentiment is a natural one in view of the horrible cruelties and tortures recognized by the Chinese criminal code.

Some days ago, at Tientsin, a Japanese, who was supposed to have left the city, was arrested under suspicious circumstances. He was coming at night from the house of the chief secretary of Director Chang of the Ordnance Department. He is charged that he was in the habit of procuring military and naval intelligence by bribery. I advised the United States Consul that it would be proper for him to request the Chinese authorities, as a

courtesy

courtesy, to inform him of such arrests and of the outcome of the examination.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d' affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
To Navy Ark. File
OCT 1 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 1 1894

No 1928.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 15th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Acc. 2nd Oct. '94. m
To Navy 2nd Oct '94. m

Subject

Gunboats arriving at Taku unannounced to be fired on.

Synopsis

Notice to above effect given at Tientsin. Mr. Denby notifies the Chinese Government that this announcement does not diminish their responsibility should an American vessel be fired on.

No 1928.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 15th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, on the 13th instant, I received a telegram from Mr. Read, United States Consul at Tientsin, as follows:

"Telegraph admiral Taku
"forts will fire gunboats
"unless Chinese authorities
"previously advised by
"consul."

In

In reply to this telegram, I wrote Mr. Read asking him to state to the Viceroy that any such action as indicated would be entirely at his own risk; that this Legation could not undertake to bring this notice to the knowledge of the United States naval authorities and that this announcement would not, in any respect, diminish his responsibility in case he fired on an American man-of war.

In a personal interview with the ministers of the Yamên, yesterday, I made a similar statement to them. I explained to them that an American

ship

ship might be now at sea
and beyond the reach of any
warning, and that the consuls
could not know when war
vessels would arrive, they
being guided in their movements
by the orders of the admiral
only, and that it was frequently
impracticable for the admiral
to announce in advance the
destination of his ships. I
added that if I should happen
to know, in advance, that an
American gunboat was about
to proceed to Taku, I would,
as a matter of precaution,
notify the authorities, but that
China had no right to demand
such notification. Similar

information

information might be demanded at other ports where there is no American consul, in which case it would be manifestly imporible to supply it.

The Chinese authorities are convinced that Japanese vessels are substituting the flags of other countries for the purpose of deception. It was this idea which dictated their despatch copy of which was enclosed in No. 1908 of the 4th instant. The proposals therein made were not definitely acceded to by any foreign representative in Peking.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 1 1894

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Cy Nav - Fil
OCT 1 1894

No 1929.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 15th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

To Navy
2nd Oct. 94. M

Subject

Torpedoes at Taku.

One enclosure.

No 1929.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 15th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Having been informed that torpedoes have been laid at Taku, Weihaiwei, Port Arthur and other places, I telegraphed, today, to the American Minister at Tokio as follows:

1/1929

"Inform admiral torpedoes
"at Taku and other Chinese
"ports".

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

Enclosure:

Customs notice of torpedoes at Takus.

Enclosure in No. 1929.

TIENTSIN DISTRICT.

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS:—No. 61.

ENTRANCE TO PEI-HO RIVER.

TORPEDOES LAID DOWN AT ENTRANCE TO RIVER.

NOTICE is hereby given that Torpedoes have been laid at the Entrance to the river outside the Taku Forts. Vessels are therefore warned not to attempt to enter the river without a Torpedo Pilot. A narrow passage on the North side of the Channel has been left open.

A. VERE HAVERS,
Acting Harbour Master.

Approved:

DETRING,
Commissioner of Customs.

CUSTOM HOUSE,
TIENTSIN, *11th August, 1894.*

Dup

Ltr & file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 3 1894

Secretary of State.
OCT 7 1894

No 1930.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 16. 1894.

DEPT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Jurisdiction over Chinese in Japan.

Synopsis

Chinese Government requests the exercise of friendly offices of the United States consuls in Japan to bring to a satisfactory conclusion legal matters in which Chinese are parties.

No 1930.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 16. 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report to you that at a personal interview with the ministers of the Yamên, on the 11th instant, they asked me if it would be possible for the United States Minister and consuls in Japan to exercise civil jurisdiction over the Chinese in Japan, as over American

citizens

citizens.

The treaty between China and Japan signed at Tientsin in 1871, Article VIII, provides that in all suits in which Chinese "are the only parties, "the matter in dispute being "money or property, it will fall "to the consul of China to "adjudicate according to the "laws of his own state". A state of war now existing, and the treaties being abrogated and the consuls withdrawn, there remains no authority with power to intervene in suits between Chinese.

I explained to the Yamên that the jurisdiction of the

consuls

consuls of the United States over American citizens in Japan was derived from acts of Congress, in pursuance of treaties made with Japan, and that the mere request to protect the interests of Chinese in Japan could not bring them under the jurisdiction of the United States consuls to such an extent as to enable the consuls to hear cases in which Chinese were parties and to enforce judgement. I said, however, that it might be possible for the consuls of the United States to intervene, in a friendly manner, to bring to a satisfactory conclusion disputes between Chinese

Chinese. In compliance with the Yamen's request, I have brought the matter to the attention of Mr. Dun, at Tokyo.

In reply to an inquiry, the minister stated that, in case of lawsuits in which Japanese were parties in this country, they would have nothing whatever to do with them, but would leave the matter to the consuls of the United States.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

No 1931.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 17th, 1894.

— Wm. Charles Denby Jr. —

to the

— Secretary of State. —

— Subject. —

Enclosing Statement of Telegrams
account from August 5th @ August
11th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED.

No 1931. one enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 17th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham.

Secretary of State.

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor to

enclose a statement of my account

1/1931. for official telegrams of this Legation

from August 5th @ August 11th 1894,

amounting to $101.50, against which

I have this day drawn my draft on

you to reimburse myself.

Hoping my draft will be duly honored

upon presentation,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

T. M.

Enclosure. Statement as above.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
To Navy. Ar. Fl
OCT 1 1894
No 1932.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 1 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 17th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Aer 2 Oct 94 m
2 to Navy
2 Oct 94 m

Subject:

Defense of Chinese ports.

Synopsis

On account of measures taken by China for the defense of her ports, approaching ships are to be required to adopt certain precautions.

Two enclosures.

No. 1932.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 17th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to

1/1932 enclose, herewith, a translation of a despatch from the Yamên, in which they quote a report from Admiral Ting to the Viceroy Li, stating that, in view of measures taken for the defense of certain ports, meaning the laying of torpedoes etc, precautions should be taken by approaching

ships

ships. He says that a vessel, on approaching such ports, should stop until the officers of the port have been communicated with; an officer will then board the vessel "for the purpose of "ascertaining the object of her visit "and, if she be permitted to enter "the port, she will be piloted by "a competent officer".

In reply to this despatch, I simply stated that the officer in command of the United States naval force on this station has been advised that defensive measures have been taken at the ports of China, and that, doubtless American ships approaching such ports will

observe

2/1932

observe all usual regulations and take all reasonable precautions.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. Hu Kungli Yamën to Mr. Denby No 31 August 14. 1894.
2. Reply to above No Aug 17. 1894-

Enclosure 1 in No 1932.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

No 31. August 14. 1894.

The Prince and Ministers have the honor to state that, on the 11th instant, they received a communication from the Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade embodying the following representation made to him by Admiral Ting.

"The Japanese are now occupying "the Corean frontier and when our "vessels of war are leaving port "convoying merchant vessels "they seize the opportunity and "suddenly open fire upon them. "This is an act in violation of "international law. Their "cunning tricks are outrageous

"At the present time the two "countries are at war and it is "right that our seaports should "be effectually guarded. By the

rules

"rules of international law during
"a season of trouble when steamers,
"both men-of-war and merchant
"ships, approach a port where defensive
"measures have been taken, they
"should stop until they have
"communicated with the officers of
"the port. An officer will board
"the vessel, for the purpose of
"ascertaining the object of her
"visit, and, if she be permitted to
"enter the port, she will be
"piloted by a competent officer and
"thus avoid by mistake any
"collision or mishap.

"Wei-hai-wei and Port Arthur
"are our naval stations. At both
"ports defensive measures have
"just now been taken".

Following the precedent laid down in international law, the Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade requests the Yamên to communicate with the diplomatic representatives at Peking, asking

them

them to bring the above announcement to the vessels, both public and private, of their respective countries so that they may act in obsevance thereof.

The Yamên have instructed the Inspector General of Customs to inform the customs authorities at the various ports so that notifications may be issued for the information of all steamers. A communication has also been sent to the Minister Superintendent of Southern Trade requesting him to issue instructions to the officials concerned, under his jurisdiction, for their information.

As in duty bound the Prince and Ministers address this communication to the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States asking him to make the above known to the men-of-war and to the merchant steamers of his country.

To Chas. Denby Jr. Esqr
etc - etc - etc.

Enclosure 2 in No. 1932.

Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên.

No. 31. August 17. 1894.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch, of the 14th instant, stating that the Superintendent of Northern Trade has received a report from Admiral Ting, setting forth certain precautions that should be observed by vessels approaching Chinese ports where measures have been taken for defense.

In reply I have the honor to state that I have informed the admiral in command of the United States naval force on this station that certain defensive measures have been taken at Chinese ports. I have no doubt that American ships approaching such ports will

comply

comply with all the usual requirements and will adopt all reasonable precautions.

I have etc.,

(Sig'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé etc.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

Secretary of State
AUG 20 1894

Thos Aug 21
Acted Aug 25

From Pekin

Aug 18.94

Gresham,

Washington.

In case of defeat of Chinese, mobs apprehended Tien-Tsin. Request war vessel.

Denby.

Dip

No 1933.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 18th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED.

Ack.
20 Oct. '94 M

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 18 1894

Subject

Jurisdiction over Chinese in Japan.

Synopsis

The viceroy Li proposes that the Chinese in Japan and the Japanese in China be put under the jurisdiction of the United States consular courts. Mr. Denby states that this is impracticable

№ 1933.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 18th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

In my despatch № 1930, of the 16th instant, I refered to an inquiry which the ministers of the Yamên had addressed me, in a personal interview on the 14th instant, as to whether the minister and consuls of the United States could exercise civil jurisdiction over the subjects of China in Japan.

This

This proposition, which had twice been made to me by the Yamên, once through a secretary and again by the ministers themselves, has since been renewed by the viceroy Li. The question came up at Tientsin in connection with the treatment of Japanese spies. The viceroy stated to Consul Read that if Japanese, dressed as Japanese or as foreigners, were arrested for any cause, the consuls of the United States would be notified thereof, but that if clothed as Chinese* and wearing queues, he would take that as evidence that they were here with evil intent, and he would not recognize

* By article XI of the China-Japan treaty of 1871 Japanese in China are not allowed to wear the costume of the country.

the United States authorities in the matter. The viceroy stated that the Japanese Government had issued a proclamation stating that all legal proceedings between Chinese and Japanese should be heard in Japanese courts. He objected to this and proposed that all Japanese in China and all Chinese in Japan be placed absolutely under the jurisdiction of the consuls of the United States, in both civil and criminal matters, and be subject in all respects to the law of the United States. This, he intimated, would bring to an end all difficulty as to the treatment

of

of Japanese spies.

This proposal is so novel and presents so many difficulties that I did not hesitate to tell the Yamên that it was impracticable. I report it to you, however, as an illustration of the confusion which results when, by reason of war between two oriental nations, the privileges of extraterritoriality are withdrawn from the subjects of one country within the territory of the other.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Dip

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy to Navy. Ark. File
OCT 1 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU.
OCT 1 1894

No 1934.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 19th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

V To Navy
1st Oct '94

Subject

Fear of mobs at Tientsin.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of 18th instant asking for a man-of-war at Tientsin and points out the dangerous condition of that city.

№ 1934.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 19th 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my cipher telegram of yesterday as follows:

"In case of defeat of Chinese,

"mobs apprehended Tientsin.

"request warvessel."

In explanation of this telegram, I have the honor to state that the greatest uneasiness prevails among the foreigners at Tientsin.

Several

Several people, including the United States consul and some members of an American mission, have already been subjected to insult at the hands of lawless soldiers. It is the conviction at that city, both among foreigners and intelligent natives, that the next bad news from the seat of war will mean the outbreak of rebellion in North China.

The consul reports to me as follows:

"Should the Chinese soldiers "be defeated on their own soil, "they will scour the country— "commit outrages of every sort, "and it is apparent that the

Slender

"slender thread which sustains
"the obedience of the masses
"to the Viceroy would, in that
"event, be snapped, and pandemonium
"would reign supreme.

"With disorder and confusion
"everywhere, it is but natural
"that the peaceable, well-
"regulated composure of the
"foreign community will excite
"the animosity of the lawless
"elements at Tientsin, especially
"if they are inflamed by soldiers
"over whom control has been
"lost.

"In proportion to the disasters
"of war, that in all likelihood
"will overtake China, the
"influence of the viceroy will

surely

"surely wane, and should the
"defeat of the Chinese be a
"crushing one, he will be
"absolutely incapable to maintain
"order".

The consul closes his despatch by urging the "imperative need" of having a gunboat at Tientsin. At present that city is guarded by one small French gunboat, the Lion, and it is not known that any other is expected.

The views of the consul above set forth are shared by others, and it is because of this widespread apprehension that I have renewed to you my request for a man-of-war

at

at Tientsin.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

From Peking
August 20, 1894.
Rec'd. August 21, 1894.

Gresham
Washington

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU AUG 21 1894

Received M.
Compd. Aug 22/94

China and Japan were both willing to exempt Merchant vessels of the other from seizure but the negotiations have failed because Japan wished her Merchant vessels to continue coming to China and the Yamen could not revoke Imperial order to destroy Japanese ships entering Chinese ports.

Denby.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File
OCT 1 1894

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 1 1894

No 1935.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 20. 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State

Subject

Exemption of merchant ships from capture.

Synopsis

Confirms telegram of this date

No 1935.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 20. 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm my cipher telegram, of this date, as follows:

"China and Japan were both
"willing to exempt merchant
"vessels of the other from
"seizure, but the negotiations
"have failed because Japan
"wished her merchant vessels
"to continue coming to
China

"China and the Yamên
"could not revoke
"imperial" order to destroy
"Japanese ships entering
"Chinese ports".

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS

Conf. Aug 22/94

From Peking

August 21, 1894.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 22 1894

Received 10.30 A.M.

Gresham,

Washington.

I have received your cipher telegram. According to the Yamen statement prefect of Shanghai on the thirteenth saw in the French concession two Japanese wearing chinese cloth[illegible] and securing arrest by the French consl plans were found upon them. French consul delivered them to the Consul General of the United States who refused to give them up without definite instructions of Legation of the United States. Yamen requested their delivery. I replied I could not act until the United States Consul General has reported. The United States Consl General telegraphs accused asked for asylum until the case investigated. Was granted with this understanding that status quo shall be maintained. Accused papers safe. Important principle involved. The rights of China doubted. The United States Consul General urges the Legation to await written report expected to-arrive to-morrow. I have assured Yamen of impartiality and request delay. On receiving report of the U.S. Consul General will telegraph.

Denby.

now at Logansport Ind.

Legation of U.S. to China
Aug. 21, 1894

file

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 23 1894

No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.
This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.
THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

532

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
72	W	My	52 pd

RECEIVED at Corcoran Bldg., S. E. Cor. 15th & F Sts., Washington, D. C.

21 aug 1894

Dated Logansport Ind 21st

Hon W Q Gresham

Washington D.C.

Telegram read. Arrived here today Can start for China Immedy Are any papers awaiting me at Vancouver Do I go on Charleston = Charles Denby

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Copy Navy Ark. File
OCT 1 1894

No 193.

OCT 1 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 21st 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Ack'd 2nd Oct '94 M
To Navy 2nd Oct. '94 M

Subject

Chinese Admiral's proposals for identification of nationality of ships.

Synopsis

Admiral Ting proposes that he be allowed to visit foreign steamers met off Corea to ascertain whether they be Japanese vessels in disguise

Two enclosures.

No 1936.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 21. 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

On the 11th instant, the Tsungli Yamên addressed a despatch to this Legation, embodying a report from Admiral Ting to the viceroy Li. In this report, the Admiral proposes that when a Chinese vessel of war meets a foreign steamer, off the coast of Corea, the Chinese ship shall bring her to, by firing

1/1936

firing a blank shot and shall then send an officer aboard to ascertain if she be Japanese flying other colors.

A similar despatch was addressed to all the foreign representatives and was not favorably received by any of them.

I enclose, herewith, a copy of my reply thereto. This reply was delayed, in order that I might be guided in making it by your answer to my telegraphic inquiry of the 10th instant. This proposal to visit vessels for purposes of identification seems to be a proposal to exercise a modified

2/1936

form

form of the right of search. I have not discussed the question with the Yamên.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. The Tungli Yamên to Mr. Denby, No: 29 of the 11th instant.
2. Mr. Denby to the Tungli Yamên No: 34 of the 21st instant.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby

No. 29. August 11. 1894.

The Prince and Ministers have the honor to state that, on the 19th instant, they received a communication from the Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade, stating that he was in receipt of a report from Admiral Ting Ju-chang as follows:

"When China sent soldiers to
"Corea for the purpose of aiding
"in suppressing the rebellion
"the Japanese also sent troops
"to protect their merchants.
"At first our friendly relations
"were not interrupted, hostilities
"had not commenced and
"there were only slight differences
"existing between the two
"countries. The flags of our
"representatives had not been
"hauled down and no formal

declaration

declaration of war had been
"made by the Japanese.
"Suddenly while some of our
"vessels of war were convoying
"merchant steamers out of port
"they were fired upon and
"destroyed by the Japanese
"in contravention of the laws of
"nations.

"Preparations are now being
"made to place the entire
"squadron in readiness to
"proceed eastward to attack
"the enemy. It appears that
"the forces of the Japanese are
"very numerous. Their vessels
"of war as well as their
"merchant craft often illicitly
"fly the flags of other nations
"the object and motive being
"in playing along the coast of
"Corea to mislead other
"vessels as to their nationality.
"It is not certain when they
"they will thus employ

the

"the flags of other countries.
"If they see a [illegible] man vessel
"they may fly the English
"flag, and if they see an
"English vessel they may fly
"the French flag. Such
"confusion would prove
"injurious to the interests
"of foreign commerce and if
"a plan is not adopted
"and made known of
"recognizing these vessels
"the Japanese will illicitly
"use foreign flags to avoid
"difficulties. It is suggested
"that when Chinese vessels
"of war meet a foreign
"steamer off the coast of Corea
"they will fire a blank shot
"and thus notify it to come
"to. A Chinese naval officer
"will board the vessel for
"the purpose of ascertaining
"if she be Japanese falsely
"flying other colors. Thereupon

the

"the vessel may proceed.
"Such a course would prevent
"any misunderstanding would
"prevent any breach of friendly
"relations and prove advantageous
"to China and western countries".

The Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade requests that the matter be brought before the foreign representatives for their consideration after which instructions can be issued to carry into effect and comply with the rule agreed upon.

The Yamên regard the consideration of the request made by the Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade as being of great importance and as involving the measures taken by China in her own defence. The friendship between China and Western powers is of mutual advantage. It is believed that the Chargé d'affaires of the United States will look upon the question

in

in the same light as the Prince and Ministers. They request consideration of this despatch and an early reply.

I have &c.

Derby

&c. &c. &c.

Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên

No. 34 August 21st, 1894.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 11th instant, wherein you set forth a report from Admiral Ting to the Superintendent of Northern Trade.

In this report, the admiral says that he is about to proceed eastward, with his squadron, and he suggests certain measures for distinguishing men-of-war and merchant ships of other nations from those of Japan. He proposes, on meeting a vessel flying a foreign flag, to fire a blank shot to bring her to, and then to send an officer aboard to verify her nationality.

It is to be hoped that no action will

will be taken which will violate the rights of neutral ships.

I have etc.,

(Sig'd). Chas. Denby Jr.

etc. etc. etc

Dip

No 1937. Mly file Mlch

OCT 8 1894

Secretary of State. OCT 7 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 21. 1894.

OCT 1 1894 RECEIVED. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Right of search

Synopsis

Confirms Department's telegraphic instruction of 16th instant.

No 1937.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 21st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to confirm your telegraphic instruction, of the 16th instant, received the 18th instant, as follows:

"In your telegram of the 10th
"you say China proposes
"to exercise the right of searching
"American merchant vessels.
"When China notifies you

that

"that she has determined
"to exercise the belligerent
"right of visit and search
"over neutral vessels on
"the high seas to prevent
"the carriage of contraband
"of war to Japan, you
"will immediately report
"the fact for instructions
"but you are not expected
"to encourage the assertion
"of that right".

In my despatches Nº 1920, of the 10th August and Nº 1936, of the 21st August, I had the honor to advise you of steps taken by China to verify the nationality of vessels. There has been no attempt as yet

to

to search vessels to prevent
the carrying of contraband of
war.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

COPIED. FOREIGN RELATONS.

No 1938.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 22nd, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 1 1894
RECEIVED

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

OCT 18 1894

Ack. 20 Oct. '94 - M

Subject

Exemption from seizure of private vessels.

Synopsis

An account of the negotiations between China and Japan with a view to an agreement to exempt from seizure private vessels of one another. Cause of failure of negotiations

Two enclosures.

№ 1938.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 22nd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch №1921, of the 11th instant, I have the honor to report that the negotiations between China and Japan for the exemption from seizure of the private ships of one another, which were being conducted through this Legation and the United States Legation at Tokyo, and

which

which promised to be successful, have failed.

As stated in my despatch above refered to, the suggestion to exempt merchant vessels from attack originated with China. The Japanese Government consented thereto, excepting vessels bearing troops or contraband of war and vessels attempting to break blockade. These terms were acceptable to the Viceroy Li, to whom I submitted them through the consul at Tientsin.

On the 7th instant, the Viceroy asked Mr. Read to telegraph me as follows:

"Agree. Understanding

China

"China Merchants* steamers
"and Japanese subsidized
"lines as private vessels,
"but Japan must first
"define contraband of war."

Japan, however, refused to define contraband of war, and inquired whether the exemption would include Japanese vessels visiting Chinese ports. The edict of the Emperor of China, of the 1st August, declaring war, orders that Japanese ships entering Chinese ports shall be destroyed, and the Japanese Government asked whether this order would be revoked.

On the 11th instant, I visited the Yamên for the purpose

* A large Chinese steamship company.

of ascertaining the views of the Chinese ministers on these questions. They stated that they were willing to consent to the proposed exemption without a definition of contraband of war, but that they could not consent to admit Japanese vessels into Chinese ports nor could any part of the imperial edict be revoked. They asked this Legation to try to induce the Government of Japan to come to an agreement upon these terms. I asked them to put their statement into the form of an official despatch, which they did, on the 17th instant,

a

1/
1938

A copy of this despatch I enclose herewith.

The day after this interview, viz. on the 15th instant, I telegraphed Mr. Dun, United States Minister at Tokyo, as follows:

"Chinese Government consents "exemption without defining "contraband of war for coasting "trade and foreign neutral "ports. Japanese vessels will "not be allowed to visit "Chinese ports."

To this telegram Mr. Dun replied, under date of the 19th, as follows:

"Government of Japan refuse "proposals relative to exemption

of

"of private vessels from
"capture and withdraw
"from negotiations."

I communicated this answer,
which puts an end to all
negotiations, to the Viceroy Li,
through the United States
consul at Tientsin, and to
the Tsungli Yamên in a
2/1938 despatch of which I enclose a
copy herewith.

In the interview of the 14th
instant with the Yamên, I
stated, in reply to an inquiry,
that it was not reasonable
to expect Japan to undertake
not to search Chinese ships
for contraband of war in case
the proposed agreement was
made

made. The Chinese ministers, however, thinking that they had gained exemption of their merchant ships from capture, wished to go a step further and to be permitted to use them to carry munitions of war. The subject will be found referred to in the Yamên's despatch enclosed herewith.)
refused to submit such a proposition to the Japanese Government.

The Ministers of the Yamên gave two reasons for refusing to admit Japanese ships to their ports. Firstly they asserted that the Emperor's decree ordering their destruction was

irrevocable

irrevocable, and that the
national dignity would be
compromised should any
part of it be withdrawn.
Being asked to explain why
vessels at sea might be spared
and those coming on peaceful
errands to their ports should
be destroyed, they said that this
decree did not mention Japanese
vessels at sea and that they
might be exempted without
disobedience to it.

Secondly they expressed fear
of treachery, and said that
Japanese men-of-war, disguised
as merchantmen, might steal
past their forts.

After this decision of the
Chinese

Chinese Government an agreement became impossible. The only advantage Japan would have derived from it would have been the continuance of her steamship lines to Shanghai and Tientsin. This being refused the agreement would have profited only her enemy. Under these circumstances her withdrawal from further negotiations was only to be anticipated.

I hope the Department will not disapprove my having consented to act as a means of communication in this matter. The Chinese Government naturally turned to this Legation for the performance

of

of a friendly act, and a refusal would have been misunderstood and would have caused much embarrassment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby No 33 Aug. 17. 1894.
2. Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên No 32 Aug. 20. 1894.

Enclosure No 1 with despatch No 1938

The Foreign office to Mr Charles Denby Jr

No 33.
~~Informal~~

Peking August 17th 1894

Your Excellency,

Upon the 7th of August, the Chinese and Minister had the honor to receive a communication from the Chargé d'affaires of the United States (with reference to the exemption of Japanese and Chinese merchant vessels from capture) wherein he stated that on the 5th instant he telegraphed to the American Minister at Tokyo asking whether Japan would enter into an agreement in the matter and that he had this morning (7th Aug.) received a reply from Tokyo saying that the Japanese government would be willing to consent to exempt Chinese merchant ships from capture except ships carrying troops, contraband of war

or

or attempting to break blockade,
provided the Chinese government would
guarantee like immunity to vessels of
Japan &c.

The Yamen telegraphed the Minister
Supt of Northern trade asking him
to consider the question. A reply has
now been received in which the Minister
Supt states "that the exemption from
visits of merchant vessels of China
and Japan would refer to those met
at sea, but to allow Japanese vessels
to enter Chinese ports for from attack
cannot under any circumstances
be sanctioned." The Japanese "
propose that while merchant vessels
at sea will be exempt from visits,
still the right to search them for
contraband of war must be permitted.
They refuse to clearly define what
articles

articles should be regarded as contraband,
and this being the case merchant
ship would still have many doubts
and misgivings in the matter."

In the communication under review
there are three conditions specified.
So far as merchant vessels employed
in carrying troops or breaking
blockade, both powers would have
a perfect right to seize them, but
with regard to the condition having
reference to contraband of war, since
it is not defined as to what articles
should come under this heading,
it would seem right and proper
for both China and Japan to exempt
merchant ships from being searched.

As to the telegram received from
the United States Minister at Tokyo,
particulars of which were left at the

Yamen

Yamen by the Chargé d'affairs on the
14th instant wherein the request is
made that Japanese merchant vessels
be allowed to enter the ports of Shanghai
and Newchwang, and also that the
Emperor commands in the terms (of
August 1st '94) to attack Japanese
vessels entering Chinese ports be revoked,
the Prince and Ministers have to say
that such a proposition cannot under
any circumstances whatever be acceded to.

The Yamen clearly explained this
to the Chargé d'affairs of the United States
at the interview.

The views expressed by the Minister Dept
of Foreign Trade in his telegraphic reply
are the same as those held by the Yamen.

But as to the question of the merchant
vessels of China and Japan being exempt
from seizure at sea an arrangement

may

may be clearly settled or drawn up and action taken in accordance therewith.

In addressing this communication for the information of the Chargé d'affaires of the United States, the Prince and Ministers would ask him to connect with the Japanese Government upon the subject.

A necessary communication addressed to

Charles Lanman Esq.
&c &c &c

Applications to appeal unfavourable visa
or citizenship decisions may not be

Enclosure 2 in No 1938

Mr. Denby to the Tsungli Yamên.

No. 32.

Aug-20-1894.

Your Highness
and Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 17th instant with reference to the exemption from capture of the private vessels of China and Japan. On the 15th instant, I received a telegram from the United States consul at Tientsin, stating that the viceroy Li consented to the proposals of Japan, except that Japanese vessels would not be allowed to visit Chinese ports. This statement coincides with the position assumed by you at our interview on the 14th instant. Accordingly, on the 15th, I telegraphed to this effect to the Minister

of

of the United States at Tokyo.
I have now received a reply
from him in which he states
that Japan refuses these terms
and withdraws from the negotiation.
This result is much to be
regretted.

I have etc.,

(Sgd) Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé etc.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Dept Bur.
No 1939.

File

Legation of the United States.
Peking, August 23rd, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the
Secretary of State

Subject

Sinking of the steamer Kowshing

Synopsis

Encloses copies of the testimony of the first officer and of the captain of the steamer as to the event.

Three enclosures.

No 1939.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 23rd, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose, herewith, a clipping from the North China Daily News, giving an account of the sinking of the Kowshing, furnished by the chief officer of that steamer; also another clipping giving the captain's account of the same event.

I enclose, also, an account

of

of an interview with the chief officer which adds some details concerning the affair. This completes the evidence of the survivors.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' affaires ad interim.

Enclosures:

1. Clipping from N. O. D. N. Aug. 10 - '94.
2. " " " " " " " 13 - '94.
3. " " " " " " " 13 - '94.

Enclosure 1 in No 1939.

From North China Daily News Aug. 10. 1894

THE SINKING OF THE *KOWSHING*.

THE CHIEF OFFICER'S ACCOUNT.

10th Aug.

The following graphic account of the sinking of the *Kowshing*, has been furnished by Mr. Tamplin, the chief officer. On board the ship were 8 Europeans, her complement was 67, and she carried 1,100 troops, and one passenger.

"The *Kowshing* left Taku on the evening of the 23rd of July, 9.30. She had embarked her troops, about 1,100, on the afternoon of the same day and was the last of the ten transports up to that time engaged, and one of three English steamers, the other two being the *Irene* and *Feiching*.

"All went well on board till the morning of the 25th. The troops behaved generally in a quiet and orderly manner and seemed to be very happy and contented, but they had apparently little idea as to how or where they were to be engaged. I was on watch from 4 a.m. till 8 a.m. on the 25th, and about 7.30 I observed a man-of-war steaming rapidly towards us. She had Japanese naval colours flying with a white flag above it. As she neared us, thinking her to be a Japanese man-of-war and in accordance with our usual custom, the red ensign was hoisted and dipped and hoisted again, but to our surprise—the Captain having now come on the bridge—she took no notice of it and continued steaming away in a N.E. direction. The next thing observed was a small schooner-rigged vessel coming in from the S.E., but she was too far off to determine her nationality. We heard afterwards when on board the *Naniwa*, that the first seen was a Chinese man-of-war, the *Tsiyuen*, which had suffered severely in a previous encounter with the *Naniwa*, and was running away. The second was afterwards captured and proved to be the *Tsaokiang*, an old wooden despatch vessel built in Shanghai thirty years ago and bound from Chefoo with despatches to Chemulpo.

"We then were nearing Shopaioul Island, and when about a mile S.E. of it, saw three men-of-war, (Japanese) one of which approached us and signalled us to stop, enforcing the order by firing two guns across our bows. We stopped and signalled having done so; then we were ordered by signal to anchor, which was also done, the anchor being lowered down in 11 fathoms (high water). The man-of-war then steamed away and joined her two consorts and a conference was evidently held. As she was going we asked by signal "if we were allowed to proceed," but were answered by the signal: "Heave to or take the consequences." There was much excitement amongst the Chinese at this time and arms were being got up and ammunition was being served out and the two Generals were very anxious to know what we were signalling. The troops, by the advice of Major von Hanneken, the passenger above referred to, were all ordered below. The men-of-war now separated and one approached us covering us with her guns. She then sent an armed boat's crew alongside with two officers, who came on board and examined the ship's register and also were informed of the fact that war had not been declared up to the date of our leaving port. After examining our papers the officer informed the Captain that he was to follow the *Naniwa*—that being the name of the man-of-war that had stopped us. The difficulty we were in was explained to the officer and he was asked to obtain permission from his Captain to allow us to return to China. He then returned to his ship for instructions.

"The Chinese Generals on having the order explained to them were very indignant and excited and told Major von Hanneken to explain to us, that at the least sign of our complying with the orders of the Japanese war-ship, or at the slightest attempt on our part to leave the vessel, we should be killed at once. The General accompanied his threat with many significant gesticulations intimating that our throats would be cut. He detailed soldiers to attend immediately on the Captain and myself and served out ammunition to his bodyguard. We tried to explain to the General through Major von Hanneken the absolute futility of attempting to resist the Japanese man-of-war; that one shot from her would sink us, and that it would be best to obey; but it was of no use, the General declaring his intention of dying where he was sooner than submit, and threatening us again. The *Naniwa* now signalled, "Weigh, cut or slip; wait for nothing." We answered with the signal, "Send a boat, I wish to communicate personally" and the *Naniwa* answered "Send immediately." A boat then started from the *Naniwa* and the Chinese soldiers crowded the gangway, and it was only after repeated efforts that the officers managed to keep them out of the way. We were not allowed to go to the gangway to meet the officer in charge of the boat as the Chinese General seemed suspicious that we wanted to leave them. On the boat coming alongside the officer was met by the Chinese Generals and Major von Hanneken as interpreter. The Captain was also sent for. He explained to the officer the position we were placed in and the impossibility of our complying with his commander's orders, adding at the same time, that a solution to the difficulty might be found, in our being allowed to return to China. The officer promised to inform his commander and left.

"All our officers and Major von Hanneken gathered on the bridge now to try and discuss events and the Chinese were noisily arguing on the upper deck. I left the bridge and went aft to get my papers, and met on the after deck the chief and second engineers, to whom I stated the grave nature of the case and added that, if the Japanese fired at us, we should have to take to the water. This was the last I saw of them. On regaining the bridge I found that the

man-of-war was flying the signal "Quit the ship immediately" and we at once sent a quartermaster aft, with warning to the engineers to prepare for the worst. We then signalled, "I am not allowed" and followed that by, "Send a boat." The signal to quit the ship was still flying when another signal was hoisted from the man-of-war, "Lifeboat cannot come." The *Naniwa* then steamed into position immediately abeam of us and whistled with her syren whilst doing so. She then, still keeping the two previous signals flying, ran up a red flag to her foremast-head and almost immediately afterwards discharged a torpedo at us. We watched this coming, and it stopped or turned short of the ship. The *Naniwa* being a quarter of a mile away and seeing this, the whole starboard broadside of 5 guns was discharged and the machine guns on the top were used. This broadside took her somewhere amidships and she listed over to starboard.

"I then left the bridge and, getting hold of a spare life belt jumped overboard from forward, coming up foul of the chain, down which numbers of the crew were swarming. I got clear and struck out for the island. Just then a loud explosion as of a shell bursting occurred on board and the air was full of falling cinders and other *débris*. I saw the Captain ahead of me with his face all black and, further, I saw Major von Hanneken swimming strong, and not far from him another European. Just after this and when about 70 or 80 yards from the ship I found that rifle bullets were striking the water all around me. I turned and saw the Chinese soldiers shooting at me from the deck and gangway ports. I then protected my head with the life belt and swam and drifted with the tide past the ship. After getting clear of the ship I again made for the island, but seeing many Chinese ahead of me I reflected that it would be just as dangerous getting on to the island with them as it had been on board. So I again turned and taking off all my clothes made for the *Naniwa*, which had now drifted considerably away from the ship and was not using her guns as far as I can remember. I was not swimming long when I saw her lowering two of her boats, and one coming towards me, I was picked up. I explained to the officer the direction in which I had last seen the Captain and the Major swimming and he directed the other boat to pull that way. No attempt was made to rescue the drowning Chinamen. Two volleys were fired from our boat with the object of sinking two of the life boats, which having got clear of the ship, were filled with Chinese. Our boat was then recalled and I was taken on board, and dry clothes given me. Almost immediately after, the Captain was brought below in a very exhausted condition and the quartermaster, Lucas Evangelista by name, who had a shot wound in his neck, and was immediately treated by the medical staff on board. We were very well treated, clothes and food being given to us, and even the sailors bringing presents of sweet biscuits and things for us to eat. I was called aft and asked to write an account of all that had transpired, which I did. The Captain also was separated from me and given a state room, whilst the quartermaster and I were lodged in the sick bay; this was to separate us. We were under guard the whole time and unable to leave the room. The vessel cruised about for some time and then at 8 p.m. anchored in company with another man-of-war which was convoying the small Chinese gunboat. The officers and men of the *Naniwa* were continuous in their efforts to give us all they could and to make things pleasant for us as far as lay in their power.

"On Thursday, the 26th at 4 a.m., we got underway again and proceeded till 10 a.m. when we met the Admiral and the fleet. Here we anchored and I was again called aft to correct a copy of my written deposition. Clothes made on board were provided for us and at noon we were transferred to the transport *Yayeyama*, the crew of the *Naniwa* waving us farewell. On getting on board the *Yayeyama*, Captain Hirayama received us very kindly and told us to make ourselves at home. We found on board the officers and crew of the *Tsaokiang*, Chinese despatch boat. Also a Dane who was in the vessel at the time of her capture. We were berthed in the Captain's own cabin and the officers joined in making us welcome, inviting us to the wardroom and offering us clothes and other necessaries. At 1.30 p.m. the anchor was hove up and we steamed away for Japan. At 7 p.m., met and signalled two Japanese transports.

"Friday, 27th, met and signalled Japanese transport in the morning, at 7 a.m. off northern shore of Quelpart Island. At 7 p.m., off north end of Goto Island, where we slowed till daylight.

"Saturday, 28th.—Found ourselves confined to our cabins in the morning, entering Sasebo Bay. At 7 a.m. we anchored. Barges with an armed guard came alongside for the Chinese and for the Danish gentleman. We were introduced to Lieut. C. Tamari, Admiral's A.D.C., and taken with him in his steam-launch to the jetty. We were then conducted to the hospital where a room was prepared for us on the ground floor. Lieut. Tamari gave us to understand that anything that we could ask for should be supplied. We begged him to notify our Consul that many Europeans might still be alive on the Island, and also to notify our agents. (Tailor and bootmaker were in attendance, soap, towels and all toilet requisites were sent. Beer and claret, cigars, etc., and anything that we fancied would be sent for from Nagasaki). In the meantime, he told us that the Minister of Marine had been telegraphed. Numbers of officers visited us and expressed their sympathy with us for the loss of our comrades and also for our unavoidable detention.

"Sunday, 29th.—A list of questions subjoined was handed to us to answer, sent by Rear-Admiral Y. Shibayama, I.J.N., Commander-in-Chief of the Naval Station, Sasebo. Continued round of visitors bringing flowers, eggs and offers of various things.

"Monday, 30th, passed in the same way. Every attention being paid to our comfort.

"Tuesday, 31st, revised our answers, copies being sent us for that purpose.

"Thursday, 2nd August.—Received a visit in the morning from President of the Imperial Board of Legislation, Mr. Suyimatsu Kencho, accompanied by Commander M. Saito, J.N., and Lieut. Tamari. Minute investigation followed and we were allowed to write open letters to our agent and friends in Shanghai. In the afternoon received another visit and were asked to write answers to a few more pertinent questions regarding the loss of the *Kowshing*.

"Friday, 3rd August.—Lieut. Tamari called with a letter from Rear-Admiral T. Shibayama giving us our freedom, etc., and to make arrangements for our departure. We called by invitation on the Admiral in the afternoon and thanked him for the care and attention paid to us by all. Many officers called in the evening to congratulate us.

"Saturday, 4th August.—The Government tender *Susebo Maru* was placed at our disposal and with many farewells left with Lieut. C. Tamari for Nagasaki, where we arrived at 1.30 p.m. and were met by the Superintendent of Water Police and the Superintendent of Police tendering their cards with offers of assistance. The British Consul took our depositions and copies were handed to the Captain of the *Alacrity* for immediate conveyance to the Admiral.

LEWES HENRY TAMPLIN.

Belle Vue Hotel, Nagasaki.

P.S.—I wish to add that the Chinese crew and officers of the *Tsaokiang* were being treated with every care during our stay at Sasebo and the Danish gentleman Mühlensteth had the same attention that we had. The Chinese and the Dane had all their personal property with them.

Enclosure 2 in No 1939.

From the North China Daily News Aug. 13th 1894

THE WAR.

CAPT. GALSWORTHY'S REPORT.

The following is the report furnished by Captain Galsworthy to the *Rising Sun*, regarding the sinking of the *Kowshing*:—

"The British s.s. *Kowshing*, owned by the Indo-China S.N. Co., left Shanghai on the 17th of July, bound to Taku, under charter to carry Chinese troops from that port to Yashan, on the coast of Corea. Arriving at Taku on the 20th arrangements were made to ship the troops, and on the 23rd 1,100 came on board, including two Generals, a number of other officers of various rank, and a German ex-army officer named Hanneken who came as an ordinary passenger. At 9.50 p.m. on the 23rd the ship proceeded on her voyage to Yashan. All went well until the morning of the 25th, when, off Shopeiul island, we passed a man-of-war flying the Japanese naval ensign, with a white flag above it. This vessel proved to be the Chinese war-ship *Tsiyuen*. Shortly afterwards we sighted three Japanese men-of-war, the *Naniwa*, *Yoshino*, and another, (probably the *Akitsushima*) The *Naniwa* at once steamed towards us, flying a signal ordering us to stop. She also fired two blank charges, and signalled us to anchor, which we at once did. The *Naniwa* then steamed away, apparently to communicate with the other ships. I at once enquired by signal if I might proceed, to which the *Naniwa* replied: "Heave-to or take the consequences." A boat then came from the *Naniwa*, and an officer came on board. He was received at the gangway, and he asked to see the ship's papers. They were shown to him, and his attention particularly called to the fact that she was a British ship. Numerous other questions were asked and answered, the most important one being: "Would the *Kowshing* follow the *Naniwa?*" Being utterly helpless against a man-of-war, I replied that there would be no alternative but to do so, under protest, if ordered. The officer then left the ship, and proceeded to the *Naniwa*. Shortly after, being still at anchor, I was ordered by signal to cut, slip, or weigh immediately. The Chinese Generals learning the meaning of the signals, and finding preparations were being made to follow the *Naniwa*, objected most emphatically. They were told how useless it would be to resist, as one shot would sink them in a short time. The Generals then said they would rather die than obey Japanese orders, and as they had 1,100 men against about 400 on the *Naniwa*, they would fight sooner than surrender. They were told that if they decided to fight, the foreign officers would leave the ship. The Generals then gave orders to the troops on deck to kill us if we obeyed the orders of the Japanese or attempted to leave the ship. With gestures they threatened to cut off our heads, to stab, or shoot us; and a lot of men were selected to watch us and carry out the order. A signal was then made requesting the *Naniwa* to send a boat, in order to communicate the state of affairs. A boat was at once sent, but a crowd of armed Chinese took possession of the gangway, until I prevailed on the Generals to send them away. Eventually the officers came alongside, and a message for the commander of the *Naniwa* was sent, stating that the Chinese refused to allow the *Kowshing* to be taken prisoner, and insisted upon returning to Taku. It was again pointed out that she was a British ship, and that she had left port before war had been declared. The boat then returned to the *Naniwa*, and on her arrival a signal was hoisted, ordering the Europeans to leave the ship at once. A reply was given that they were not allowed to leave, and asking for a boat to be sent. Notice was sent to the engineers to be handy on deck in case the Japanese fired. The *Naniwa* shortly afterwards replied that a boat could not be sent. The *Naniwa* then hoisted a red flag at the fore, which was apparently a signal for discharging a torpedo, as one was fired at the *Kowshing*, but missed her. A broadside of five guns was then fired. At the time, I was on the bridge, my officers having left it, and seeing that the soldiers set to watch me had left their station at the foot of the ladder, I rushed to the wheel-house, and, after obtaining a life-belt (the last one remaining), I jumped over the ship's side. In doing so I heard a terrific explosion, and upon returning to the surface of the sea I found the atmosphere was thick with smoke and fine coal-powder. I at once struck out for the shore, distant about 1¼ mile. There were many Chinese in the water, but I only saw one European, Mr. von Hanneken. As the air cleared, a bullet struck the water close to my ear, and was followed by a shower of bullets. Knowing that shot from the *Naniwa* could not strike near me, owing to being sheltered by the hull of the *Kowshing*, I turned on my back, and saw Chinese soldiers firing at me from the deck and the 'tween deck ports. As far as possible I protected the back of my head with the life-belt, and swam as low in the water as I could. Firing from the *Naniwa's* broadside and machine guns was continued until shortly before the *Kowshing* went down, stern first. After being in the water some time, I was picked up by the *Naniwa's* cutter, in a very exhausted condition. The same boat had already rescued one of the quartermasters, who had been wounded in the neck with a rifle-bullet. On arriving at the *Naniwa* we found that the chief officer was the only other person saved by the Japanese, leaving five Europeans connected with the ship, and the passenger, missing. I requested another boat to be sent, but am afraid no further attempts were made to find them. We anchored off Shopeiul about 9 a.m. The firing commenced about 1 p.m., and we were taken aboard the *Naniwa* about 2.30 p.m. During the evening the *Naniwa* steamed away, arriving the next a.m. at the rendezvous of the

Japanese fleet in Corea. We were then transferred to the *Yayeyama*, together with a Danish electrician, named Muhlenstedt, and about sixty Chinese who were taken prisoners from the Chinese s.s. *Tsaokiang*, the same day. The *Yayeyama* then proceeded to Saseho arriving on the a.m. of the 28th. From Saseho, myself and Mr. Tamplin, the chief officer, came here in a small tender at noon on Saturday last, having in the meantime been interviewed by Mr. Suyematsu Kencho, President of the Imperial Board of Legislature, who came down from Tokio for that purpose. The quartermaster remained behind owing to his wound not having properly healed up; whilst Mr. Muhlenstedt is being further detained. During our detention we received every care and attention necessary for our comfort. After arriving here we proceeded to H. M.'s Consulate, and made an affidavit of the entire circumstances. The *Naniwa*, I may mention, had been damaged on the port quarter from a shot fired from the *Tsiyuen* in the morning. I can positively say I did not see the Japanese fire on the Chinese in the water. The Chinese killed many of their own people."

THE BATTLE OF SEIKWAN.

Seikwan, where the action was fought on the 29th ultimo, is represented to be a position of much strategic importance in the movement on Yashan. The Chinese sent forward a strong force to hold the place, recognising that their position at Yashan largely depended on who remained master at Seikwan. To attack Yashan it was necessary for the Japanese troops to carry Seikwan. The Chinese troops therefore kept strict guard at this place and held the place with a picked lot of soldiers. The official report of the engagement despatched by Major-General Oshima on the 31st ultimo states that the engagement commenced at 3 a.m. on the 29th ultimo, and after fighting for five hours the Japanese troops won a complete victory, after carrying all the fortifications erected by the enemy at Seikwan. The Chinese soldiers engaged are estimated to have been not less than two thousand eight hundred. Upwards of five hundred were left killed and wounded on the battle ground. Of the Japanese troops five officers and about seventy petty officers and soldiers were killed or wounded. The enemy fled in the direction of Honchiu. It is thought that they intended to embark on Corean vessels near Gunsan. Several banners, four cannons, and lots of war material were captured. The Japanese marched on and took possession of the enemy's position at Yashan. The news brought by the *Shinanogawa Maru* was much to the same effect as the above. According to the *Asahi's* Fusan correspondent, the Japanese troops marched on towards Yashan, a naval contingent proceeding along the coast, while the main force advanced inland. This was on the 29th and 30th ultimo. The battle was opened at 3 p.m. and it lasted for about five hours, the Chinese being at last completely defeated. The same correspondent hears that the arms, ammunitions, and provisions captured from the Chinese force were being sent to Jinsen on boats towed by a steamboat.—*Kobe Herald.*

Enclosure 3 in No. 1939.

From the North China Daily News Aug. 13. 1894.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. TAMPLIN.

After the very full statement Mr. Tamplin, the chief officer of the ill-fated *Kowshing*, drew up for publication, and the constant interrogation he must have had to meet since his liberation, it seemed almost like a piece of cross-examination to ask him to say anything further on the subject. But when seen by a representative of the *N.-C. Daily News*, Mr. Tamplin readily consented to throw any further light upon certain points with which his exciting experiences might have made him familiar.

"First of all," asked the interviewer, "do you agree with Mr. von Hanneken's report?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Tamplin, "as far as I know it is quite correct. I see some question has been raised as to whether the *Kowshing* went down *stern* first. Mr. von Hanneken says she did, and he is quite right. With regard to the account of the fight as seen from the *Feiching*, I must say that it contains a good many mistakes. It is said the *Feiching* was five miles away at the time, but we saw nothing of her. Of course the incident might look different on her deck, than from the *Kowshing*."

"What do you think of the statement that when the *Tsiyuen* met the Japanese man-of-war, the latter hoisted the Chinese ensign and a white flag?"

"Well, I don't believe it; it was the other way round. As we were going on our voyage we saw, some distance off, a man-of-war flying the Japanese ensign with a white flag. We saluted, but as she did not return the salute we suspected something. We found out later that the vessel was the Chinese man-of-war *Tsiyuen*, which had been fighting and was retreating. When we saw the *Naniwa*, later, there was a hole in her port quarter and her officers told me it had been caused by a missile which had gone through her wardroom and two cabins. The men seemed to have been rather excited at this engagement in the morning, which preceded our arrival on the scene.

"Now, Mr. Tamplin, is it a fact that the Japanese fired upon the people in the water?"

"I don't think it is correct," was the response, "to say that they 'fired upon the struggling mass of humanity'—that is a matter of conjecture. But at any rate they were firing at the overloaded boats, to the life lines of which the people were also clinging."

"And the Japanese boats made not the slightest attempt to save the Chinese?"

"No, they made no attempt to save the Chinamen."

"Do you think the sinking of the *Kowshing* could have been avoided by some arrangement?"

"It is a most difficult question to answer. Seeing the strategical importance of Yashan, whither the soldiers were proceeding, the Japanese had very strong reasons for preventing the landing. The refusal of the Chinese Generals to allow the ship to be taken prisoner complicated matters very much, and the Chinese Generals seemed to think it was impossible for them to return to China, and that therefore death whilst fighting would be as good as an ignominious death in China. I think the terrible slaughter might have been avoided if the Japanese man-of-war had put a couple of shots into the *Kowshing*, let her sink, and then have lowered all boats and picked up the people in the water, when they were beyond fighting."

In the course of further conversation Mr. Tamplin referred to the considerate treatment he and Captain Galsworthy experienced whilst prisoners. He was much struck with the excellent discipline on board the Japanese men-of-war, which was copied in all details from the British. Most of the officers spoke very fair English. Saseho, where they were taken is about forty-five miles north of Nagasaki. There is a very fine naval hospital there, in the foreign style, and the place is strongly fortified.

Before leaving Saseho the Japanese authorities presented $2,000 to Captain Galsworthy, $1,500 to Mr. Tamplin, and $800 to the quartermaster, telling them that the money was meant to defray their travelling expenses.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Dipl Bur
OCT 12 1894

File

OCT 12 1894

No 1940.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 24th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

A Scotch missionary killed in Manchuria

Synopsis

Mr. Uhylie, a Scotch missionary at Liao Yang, in Shingking, killed by Manchu soldiers en route for Corea.

№1940.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 24. 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

On or about the 10th instant, some Manchu soldiers, 7500 in number, from Kirin and under orders for Corea, passed through the city of Liao Yang, near Newchwang, in Shingking. On their way some of these soldiers attacked and wrecked, with what provocation is unknown, the

Scotch

Scotch Mission chapel, and assaulted Mr. Wylie, a Scotch missionary, leaving him senseless in the street. The local magistrate, on being appealed to, demanded the surrender and punishment of the guilty parties, but this was refused by the commander of the troops and the messengers were attacked and driven away. A telegraph clerk, who happened to be in the city, tapped the wires and enabled the magistrate to communicate with the military commissioner. This official promised the punishment of the soldiers, and the cashiering of their commander,

who

who, he undertook, should be
beheaded if Mr. Uglie died.

Here facts were briefly
reported to me by the United
States vice consul at Newchwang,
under date of the 16th instant.
A subsequent despatch from him
states that Mr. Uglie died on
the 16th. The British Legation
has taken up the matter and
it is to be hoped that exemplary
punishment will be insisted on.

In this war, it is not mobs
nor Japanese troops that foreigners
have to fear but Chinese soldiers,
who will be tempted to attack
anyone who falls in their way.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
OCT 27 1894

File

No 1941.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 25th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

OCT 29 1894
DIPLOMATIC BUREAU

Subject

Safe conduct for light-house tenders.

Synopsis

Japan refuses to grant a request from the Inspector General of Customs, submitted through this Legation, for the exemption from molestation of light house tenders

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No 1941.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 25th 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that I received, on the 16th instant, an official letter from Sir Robert Hart, Inspector General of Chinese Maritime Customs, asking the good offices of this Legation to secure the issue of instructions, by the Japanese Government, for the protection of three ships of

the

the Chinese Customs Service, which are employed as light-house tenders and in the construction of light-houses on the China coast. The work of these vessels is of great importance to commercial interests generally and affects the safety of life and property under all flags. It is particularly desirable that the construction of a big light at Hestan Island and three others in Hainan Straits should progress unmolested. Under these circumstances, I telegraphed, on the 17th instant, to the United States Minister at Tokyo, laying the Inspector General's request before the

Japanese

Japanese Government.

On the 24th instant, I received a reply from Mr. Dun from which I learned, with regret and surprise, that the safe-conduct requested for these vessels had been refused.

I take the liberty to suggest to you the propriety of some representation on your part in the matter to Japan.

must

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' affaires ad interim.



China

Evansville Ind Aug 25th 1894

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
27 1894
RECEIVED.

2D ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
File.
AUG 30 1894

Hon W Q Gresham
Secretary of State
Washington

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 22d instant confirming your telegram of the 21st instant; also of your telegram of the 22d instant.

I will leave for Peking to-day at 2 o'clock P M, and will sail from San Francisco the 6th proximo.

I should have taken the steamer of the 28th instant had it not been for the fact that it went via Honolulu.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
your obedient Servant
Charles Denby

Dpt

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

From Peking

August 26, 1894.

Gresham

Received M.

Washington.

Tele

Received telegrams 23 and 21 August. Unfortunately latter one last. Under the international rule in the Shanghai settlements French Consul had not the right to surrender Japanese to Chinese officials. Arrests can only be made on the concessions by order of Consuls. Chinese arrested tried by the mixed court, foreigners delivered to their Consuls. Japanese were delivered to US Consul General because US protects the interests of Japanese. US Consul General reports alleged spies were schoolboys peacefully and openly living Shanghai I request that I be directed to order examination by US Consul General with Chinese official present. China should not be allowed to inflict barbarous treatment, if guilty.

Denby

COPIED FOR CONGRESS U.S.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

From Peking, August 27, 1894.
Rec'd. August 28, 1894.

File

GRESHAM,

Washington.

27 August. The Consul General of the United States telegraphs alleged two spies have resided three years as students. The papers in their possession such as intelligent students might prepare for personal information. Suggest Consuls of the United States shall act as arbitrators. I state many Japanese have worn Chinese clothing without objection though contrary to treaty.

Denby.

COPIED FOR CONGRESS

No 1942.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 27th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

✓ Acknd Oct 23/94

Subject

Arrest of spy at Chinkai.

Synopsis

Japanese in disguise seized near Ningpo. Mr. Denby instructs Consul Fowler that he cannot protect Japanese accused of crime but may endeavor to secure fair trial

BUREAU
OCT 20 1894

№1942.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 27th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

On the 26th instant, I received from Mr. Fowler, United States consul at Ningpo, a telegram as follows:

"[On] Monday learned
"military arrested [on]
"Sunday [at] Chinhai, as
"spy; Japanese dressed [as]
"priestly passenger. [In the]
"morning wrote for facts.

Taotai

"Taotai replied, giving
"circumstances and trial.
"Evidence weak and ex
"parte. Requested delay
"punishment few days.
"Just received reply none
"of my business will not
"answer further despatches
"on subject. Shall demand
"delay. Await your instructions".

To this I replied in cipher as follows:

"Gresham's orders positive
"Consuls cannot protect
"Japanese accused of crime.
"You may use friendly
"offices to secure fair trial
"if refused no alternative".

Chinkai is a town at the mouth

mouth of the river leading to Ningpo, about twenty miles therefrom, and within the fortifications which guard the entrance. For a Japanese to present himself, in disguise, in that locality is a proof of illicit intentions or of extreme foolhardiness. The treaties between China and Japan provide that Japanese in this country shall not wear the Chinese dress. It would seem that what is unlawful in time of peace should be the more avoided in time of war.

The question of Japanese in China in disguise is a serious one. There are doubtless many

of

of them. One has been seized at Tientsin, two at Shanghai one at Nanking and now one near Ningpo. Japanese engaged in making unlawful investigations in China cannot occupy a better position than active belligerents. They cannot claim the intervention of the United States. If seized by Chinese authorities, away from foreign concessions, upon reasonable grounds of suspicion, the duty of United States consuls can go no further than to make an effort to secure their fair trial. Humanity would also dictate that protest be made against torture or barbarous

punishment

punishment.

If Japanese accused of crime take refuge with or are delivered to United States authorities, this Legation will, until otherwise instructed, consider it lawful to retain possession of them until reasonable proofs of guilt have been adduced. Though China is at war with Japan, Japanese have the Chinese Government's express permission to reside here, and should be protected from causeless persecution at the hands of subordinate officials.

In this sense I have written to Mr. Fowler.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim.

File

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
OCT 11 1894

No 1943.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 28th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Disorganization of mail and telegraph services

Synopsis

Withdrawal of Japanese and Chinese steamers and other causes have deranged mails and offical supervision delays telegrams

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No 1943.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 28th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegraphic instruction, of the 26th instant, to include the date in telegrams to the Department.

The condition of the telegraph and mail services in China is now eminently unsatisfactory. No cipher telegrams are transmitted

or

or received for any but the legations, and even those sent by or addressed to them must be sealed by the Yamên before they can be forwarded. Though the contents of such telegrams are unintelligible to the members of the Yamên, they carefully note the number of telegrams delivered to and sent by the foreign representatives, as well as the dates thereof. There is scarcely a Legation which has not had occasion to complain of unnecessary detention of telegrams.

The mails are in an even worse condition, partly through unavoidable causes and

partly

partly through misconduct.
The withdrawal of the Japanese
mail line from Yokohama to
Shanghai, whose steamers
carried the United States mails,
has made the delivery of letters
irregular. The Chinese steamers,
also, have almost ceased to
ply between Shanghai and
Tientsin, increasing the irregularity.
On at least two occasions,
mails carried by the customs
courier from Tientsin to Peking
have been forcibly and unlawfully
detained by Chinese soldiers.

Annoying as this condition
of affairs is, worse is to be
anticipated in case of a Japanese
blockade of Tientsin or an

occupation

occupation of North China. It
may even become necessary to
send our mails via Russia.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'Affaires. ad interim.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Ask by subject. Approved
OCT 12 1894

No 1944.

Ack'd approved 1894 Oct 12 F I D

Not used Dub 15/95 E I R

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 28th, 1894.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Registration of Japanese in China

Synopsis

On the Yamên's proposing to compel a registration of all Japanese in China, Mr. Denby offers to procure a list of them in lieu of such registration and the offer is accepted.

Two enclosures.

No 1944.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 28th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to state that, on the 20th instant, I received a note from the Ministers of the Yamên, stating that they had been informed that the Japanese Government had ordered the registration of all Chinese in Japan. They announced an intention to enforce a like measure against the

1/1944

the Japanese in China.

With a view to preventing the carrying out of this intention in such a way as to cause needless hardship or inconvenience to Japanese in this country, I wrote to the Yamen that there were not many of them and that, if

2/1944

desired, I could procure lists of them from the United States consuls.

At a subsequent personal interview, the ministers stated that it would be sufficient to have a list of those at Shanghai only, and they consented to obtain it through me.

I have written to the Consul

General

General for such a list, and will forward it to the Yamên.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim

Enclosures:

1- Note from Yamên Aug-20-1894.

2- Reply to " " 23- "

Enclosure 1 in No 1944.

The Tsungli Yamên to Mr. Denby.

Aug. 20. 1894.

Sir:

We have the honor to inform you that we have received a telegram from the Minister Superintendent of Northern Trade, stating that he had been petitioned by the China Merchants Steam Navigation Company, of Shanghai, to effect that the Japanese Government had ordered all Chinese resident in Japan to report and register themselves, giving their names, details of their places of residence, occupation etc. Those failing to comply with this order will be expelled from the country.

The Government of the United States has undertaken the protection of Chinese subjects resident in Japan and the United

States

Minister at Tokyo.
States, has likely heard of this order.

If the Japanese Government is to adopt such a minute system, then the Chinese Government will adopt the same rule and require the Japanese resident in China to register, in like manner, as a convenient means of examining them.

The Japanese living in China are under the protection of the United States Government and we shall feel obliged if you will favor us with a reply.

Cards with compliments of Ministers

Enclosure 2 in No. 1944.

Mr. Denby to the Tungli Yamên.

Aug. 23rd 1894.

Your Highness and
Your Excellencies:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 20th instant, wherein you state that the Japanese Government has ordered all Chinese resident in Japan to report and register themselves, and you state that if this be the case the Chinese Government will adopt the same rule toward Japanese in China.

The Minister of the United States at Tokyo has not reported the above proposal to this Legation. There are not many Japanese left in China; most of them have returned to their own country. Should the Chinese Government think it necessary to take the

trouble

trouble to register those who remain, this Legation would not be able to offer any objection thereto. If desirable the United States consuls could be asked to submit to the local authorities lists of the Japanese in their jurisdictions.

I have etc.,

(Sig'd) Chas. Denby Jr.

etc- etc- etc.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

No 1945.

Legation of the United States.
Peking August 29th 1894.

— Wm. Woodville Rockhill —
to the
— Secretary of State —

— Subject —

Enclosing duplicate statement of account for official telegrams from July 3rd to August 2d 1894.

No. 1945 One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 29th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q Gresham

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

I have the honor

to enclose duplicate statement of

945. my account for official telegrams

from July 3d to August 2d

1894.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

Chas. Denby Jr.

T. M.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim

Enclosure: Duplicate statement as above.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
OCT 12 1894

Sep

No 1946.

File

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
OCT 12 1894

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 29th, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Reported success of Chinese arms

Synopsis

Encloses imperial decree from the Gazette reporting a victory at Kung chow.

One enclosure.

No 1946.

Legation of the United States

Peking, August 29th, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to —

1/1946 enclose, herewith, a translation of a decree from the Peking Gazette, expressing the gratification of the Emperor at the success of the Chinese arms, at Kung Chou, near Ping Yang, in Corea. The Chinese general, Yeh Chih-chao, seems to have reported to the Throne an encounter with

a

a superior force of Japanese troops, in which 1700 of the enemy were slain, with a Chinese loss of only 300 killed and wounded.

The date of this engagement is not given and it has not been confirmed from other sources.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d'affaires ad interim.

Enclosure:

Decree from Peking Gazette of the 26th instant.

Enclosure 1 with despatch No 1946.

Translation.

Decree published in the Manuscript Gazette of August 26th 1894, issued by the Emperor of China.

Some time since Our forces under command of General Yeh Chih-chao, gained a victory in battle against the Japanese, and as a stimulus to valor, Her Majesty the Empress Dowager graciously bestowed upon them a gratuity of Taels 20.000.

We have now received a telegraphic memorial stating that the forces of Our army while moving to Kung Chou were suddenly surrounded by

by over 20,000 Japanese troops
who made a surprise attack
on them. Our force joined
battle with the Enemy and
had to bear the brunt of a
bloody fight which lasted for
12 hours - resulting in a loss on
the Japanese side of over 1700 men
against 300 and more killed
and wounded on Our side.
The said General and others
with a small force as compared
with the greater one of the Japanese,
were in an Extremely Embarrassing
condition, and they set an ambush
and were enabled to retreat
from the Enemy. Our force
were then marched East crossed
the Bam river and temporarily
Encamped

Encamped at Tien Tsang.

The memorialist request that he should be furnished by the full extent of the penalty allowed by law and that marks of Imperial favor and rewards be bestowed on the officers and men who exerted themselves and those who were killed in battle.

Our military forces under the command of General Yeh Chih-chao were originally despatched to Corea to suppress the rebellion there: they did not number many then. In the present instance, however, our troops, while en route met the Japanese forces numbering many times

more

more than ours, who surrounded them on all sides and attacked them. Our troops were able to hold their own. They fought against a greater force and were able to make their escape. Although some were killed and wounded the restoration conduct displayed fully Equalled the errors committed. As an act of grace Yeh Shih-chao need not be punished as requested. The officers and men of our forces braving the heat had a distressing fight: they displayed warlike courage worthy of Encouragement.

Let the names of those who particularly distinguished themselves

be

be reported to us, as well as those who are killed in battle, with the request that rewards may be bestowed as a mark of our favor.

The said General is now at Ting Hang and has joined our other great army. Let all the Commanders of the forces act together and with warlike courage meet the Enemy in battle and without loss of time memorialize us thereby achieving great merit and thus gratify Our longings.-

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN CIPHER.

DIPLOMATIC BUREAU
AUG 31 1894
COPIED FOR CONGRESS

From Peking,

August 31, 1894.

Confirmed 1st Sept 94 m

GRESHAM,

Washington,

August 31. I have received your cipher telegram 29th The United States of America Minister to Japan telegraphs that Japanese Government assures two Japanese are not spies. Japanese Government requests China to take no action until Minister Denby arrives. Will you authorize me to make the proposition to Chinese Government or do you order immediate unconditional undauntedly surrender to Chinese Government.

Denby.

3RD ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
Dept Bur
OCT 11 1894

File

No 1947.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 31st, 1894.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
OCT 11 1894
RECEIVED.

Mr. Denby to the

Secretary of State.

Subject

Relief of destitute Chinese in Japan.

Synopsis

The Yamên authorizes the United States minister at Tokyo to draw on this Legation for necessary expenses of relief of Chinese sailors.

No 1947.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, August 31st, 1894.

To the Honorable

Walter Q. Gresham,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that, on the 21st instant, I received a telegram from Mr. Dun, United States Minister at Tokyo, stating that twenty-eight destitute Chinese sailors had landed at Kobe, and that the United States consul had taken charge of them, paying their necessary expenses. He inquired

whether.

whether the Chinese Government would place a credit at Washington, to cover the expenses of the relief of destitute Chinese in Japan.

I laid the matter before the Ministers of the Yamên in a personal interview. They cheerfully undertook to reimburse the United States consul at Kobe, for the expenses he had incurred in the relief of the destitute sailors, and such additional expense as he might incur in forwarding them to Shanghai. They authorized a draft on this Legation for the purpose. As to other destitute Chinese in Japan, the Ministers stated

that

that guilds existed among the Chinese abroad for the purpose of relieving the necessities of their destitute countrymen and that application should be made to them.

I communicated this reply to Mr. Dun by cable.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chas. Denby Jr.

Chargé d' Affaires ad interim.

END

D